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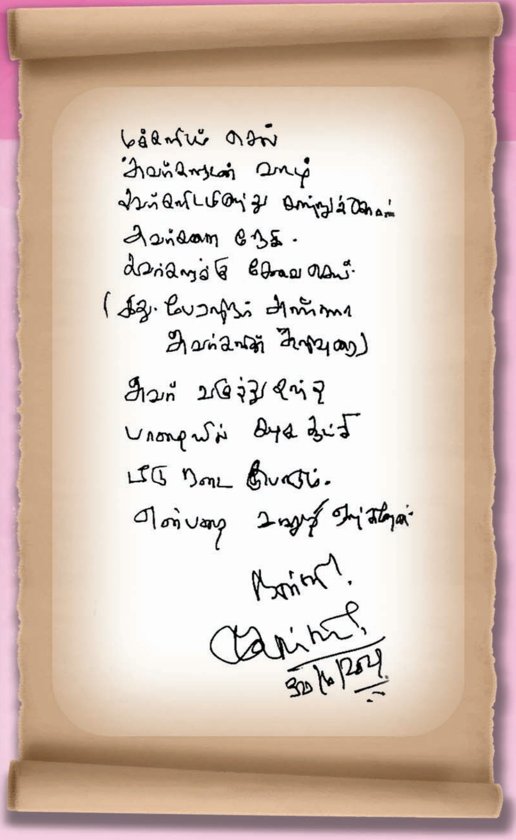

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin** visited the Perarignar Anna Memorial House in Kancheepuram on 30.06.2021, wrote a note and signed the visitor’s book.

Hon'ble Chief Minister appeals to doctors for support in boosting medical services further.

Greetings of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** on 30.06.2021 for 'National Doctors' Day' - *(English Translation)*.

On the occasion of National Doctors' Day, I extend my warm greetings to Doctors, who are involved in the selfless medical profession and work with dedication for ensuring the health of people.

National Doctors' Day in the Country is celebrated every year on July 1, to commemorate India's celebrated Doctor and Former Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr. B.C.Roy, who lived for 80 years and died on July 1, the very date of his birth.

Doctors' Day is celebrated to recognize the essential services of the medical profession, which are necessary for easy delivery of babies and to save the lives of people from deadly diseases. Doctors realize the importance of their profession and serve day and night in their white uniforms, like an Army.

The second wave of the Corona Pandemic was severe in Tamil Nadu when the D.M.K. came to power in the State. At that time, when anti-Corona measures were taken on a war footing by the Government of Tamil Nadu, Doctors stood by the Government like Commanders and Soldiers of a force and brought the situation under control. I greet them for this.

I appeal to you to co-operate with the efforts of this Government to further strengthen the medical infrastructure developed by the D.M.K. Government, under the leadership of Dr.Kalaignar, to save the lives of poor people and to take care of their health.

I assure you on this occasion, that this people's Government will continue to support Doctors. As a part of this, the State Government sanctioned Rs.25 lakh as immediate relief to the families of Doctors who lost their lives while carrying out anti-Corona activities and Rs.30,000 as incentive to each of the serving Doctors who are in service.

I appeal to you to continue your noble work of serving the people and again assure you that the Government will always stand by you. ■

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"You, as Doctors, continue to perform the great task of protecting the people. This Government will function as a frontline warrior in protecting you; it will stand by you."

- Thiru. M. K. Stalin
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

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First Wrapper

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin** distributed benefits to children who have been rendered orphans by the Corona pandemic and consoled them at the Secretariat, Chennai on 16.06.2021.

Government aims at transparency, accountability through e-Governance

Hon'ble Governor's address lays emphasis on 'Greater autonomy, true federalism'

Hon'ble Members of the Legislative Assembly,

Vanakkam.

I greet you, the Members of the 16th Legislative Assembly as you convene here for the first session, after being elected by the people of Tamil Nadu in the recent elections. This August House is a beacon of democracy and I am confident that each one of you will perform the role expected of you as an elected Member of the Assembly.

2) The emphatic victory of the Secular Progressive Alliance led by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, in this election underscores the well thought out decision of the people of Tamil Nadu to make India a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic in the true sense, as envisaged in the Preamble of the Constitution of India, drafted by Dr.Ambedkar.

3) This Government is guided by the spirit of the Dravidian Movement and identifies social justice, gender equality, economic equity, opportunity-for-all through reservations and progress through education and social reforms as its core values. These values will drive every action, every legislation, every scheme and every initiative of this Government.

4) This is a Government which will always work for each and every person in Tamil Nadu irrespective of whether they voted in its favour or not. In keeping with this inclusive ethos, this Government has consulted with all stake holders, all shades of public opinion and all the political parties with a presence in the Legislative Assembly in formulating its response to the Covid pandemic.

5) This Government has taken office almost three years after the passing of the great Dravidian Stalwart Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi – an unparalleled leader whose career spanned six decades in this August House. Though he is not with us in person, his values will always guide this Government. Building upon his unshakable faith in democratic traditions, this Government will take all necessary measures to strengthen the foundation of our democracy, which is the life blood of any true republic.

6) This Government stands fully committed to achieving its ultimate goal of greater autonomy for States and establishment of true federalism at the Union level through constitutional means. Strong States are needed to create a strong Union. This Government will staunchly stand in defense of the rights of the States and constitutionally oppose any infringement of such rights. At the same time, we will maintain a cordial relationship with the Union Government as partners in the process of Nation building, in line with our policy of extending our hand in friendship, even as we speak up for our rights.

7) The Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. M.K.Stalin visited New Delhi after assuming office to call on the Hon'ble Prime Minister and presented a Memorandum containing several requests for assistance from the Union Government including for Covid prevention activities and important projects required for Tamil Nadu's future development, besides emphasising the priority policy issues of the Government of Tamil Nadu to the Union Government. We expect that the Union Government will favourably consider the requests contained in the Memorandum.

8) The huge second wave of the Covid pandemic was the immediate crisis that engulfed the Country and Tamil Nadu as this Government assumed office. Immediately, after the counting of votes, even as the newly elected party leader, the Hon'ble Chief Minister very rightly prioritized the battle against the Covid pandemic above all other tasks, to overcome the inertia that had set in during the election process in Covid prevention activities.

9) The availability of medical infrastructure including oxygen beds has been substantially enhanced on a war footing. The unprecedented spike in the requirement of oxygen and essential life-saving drugs has been met through special efforts. Access to private medical facilities for the common man has been enhanced by liberalizing coverage for all Covid related treatment including for mucormycosis under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme. The vaccination drive has

been intensified. From a situation where there was considerable vaccine hesitancy, Tamil Nadu's vaccination delivery performance has improved considerably. But, the allotment provided by Government of India is proving inadequate. We urge the Government of India to increase the allocation of vaccines for Tamil Nadu.

10) Doctors, Nurses, other medical personnel and frontline staff of the Covid battle have been specifically incentivized. The Hon'ble Chief Minister who has been continuously inspecting Covid prevention measures in all parts of Tamil Nadu in person, donned a full PPE kit and entered the COVID ward in ESI Hospital, Coimbatore and enthused the patients undergoing treatment and greatly motivated the Doctors and Nurses on duty. Additional medical personnel have been mobilized. On behalf of the Government, I thank and appreciate all the frontline workers for their tireless and selfless efforts in combating the Covid pandemic.

11) The special efforts of the Hon'ble Chief Minister have galvanized and mobilized all segments of society and even the Tamil diaspora to join the battle against Covid in Tamil Nadu. Corporate entities, small businesses, traders' groups, non-Governmental organisations, political parties, artistes and volunteers are working shoulder to shoulder with the Government machinery in combating the pandemic. So far, Rs.335.01 crore have poured in as contributions to the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund from various quarters and of this Rs.141.10 crore has been immediately and transparently utilized for procurement of the most essential life-saving drugs and medical equipment. A further amount of Rs.50 crore will be allotted for augmenting the supply of Liquid Medical Oxygen to Government Hospitals and Rs.50 crore for preparatory activities for the anticipated third wave of Covid.

12) Conscious of the need to preserve livelihoods in the middle of the pandemic and to provide succour to the people suffering from loss of income, this Government disbursed Rs.4,000 as relief assistance in two instalments, totaling Rs.8,393 crore to all 2.1 crore rice ration card holders in the State in May and June. Many leading economists in the world have emphasized that when the economy has been greatly impacted by the pandemic, direct cash relief assistance to the poor is the most appropriate policy response. This initiative of the Government of Tamil Nadu is in keeping with such prescriptions and will stimulate consumer demand and help the economic cycle return to normalcy. Further, grocery kits worth Rs.466 each, containing 14 essential commodities have also been provided to all rice ration card holders at a total cost of Rs.977.11crore. Additional 5 kilos of rice for each person in the family is being provided to all rice card holders in the State for the months of May and June at an additional cost of Rs.687.84 crore to the State Government. In keeping with Perarignar Anna's immortal words, that "we will see God in the smile of the poor", a total amount of Rs.10,068 crore has been provided as livelihood

assistance so far by this Government after assumption of office.

13) Medical experts have warned of a third wave of Covid. This Government will take all necessary measures to counter the possible third wave. Health infrastructure is being further strengthened. All the ongoing construction projects in the health sector, including that of the eleven new medical colleges are being expedited for early completion. A new 500 bedded multi-speciality hospital will be constructed in the King Institute campus, Chennai at a total cost of Rs.250 crore. Oxygen storage and production capacities are being further augmented in many Government Hospitals across the State. Private investors have been offered a special package of incentives to establish units to manufacture liquid medical oxygen and related equipment in Tamil Nadu. We welcome the decision of the Union Government, heeding the voices of States to revert to the policy of centrally procuring and supplying free of cost vaccines to all categories. We urge the Union Government to ensure that adequate vaccine supplies are made available to ensure that the entire adult population of India is vaccinated against Covid before this year end.

14) To honour the glory of Tamil language, this Government will continue to urge the Union Government to declare Tamil, as one of the official languages of India. This Government will also urge that in all Union Government offices including Nationalized banks situated in Tamil Nadu, Tamil must be declared and used as the co-official language. To enable this, if necessary Article 343 of the Constitution should be suitably amended. The Central Institute of Classical Tamil in Chennai shall be revitalized and we will impress upon the Government of India to preserve its autonomy and not affiliate the Institute to any other University.

15) This Government will urge the Union Government to advise the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure that Eelam Tamils have equal civil and political rights. This Government will also urge the Union Government to make necessary laws and amendments to grant Indian citizenship to Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka.

16) This Government will accord highest priority to the effective maintenance of law and order in Tamil Nadu. A peaceful and harmonious social environment free of communal tensions is absolutely vital for the development of the State. This Government will ensure equity and justice for all in the State.

17) The morale of Police Personnel has to be boosted to ensure effective maintenance of law and order and prevention of crime. This Government believes that an integral aspect of policing is the cordial relationship between police and the people they protect and serve. Various measures will be undertaken to strengthen such bonds, including requisite training for Police Personnel. The grievance redressal process for Police Personnel will be strengthened. Compassionate ground appointments will be expedited, especially in the case of those who die in the line of duty.

18) The Government has numerous cases involving large financial stakes tied up at

various stages of litigation. This Government will establish new management systems and procedures to expedite resolution of all cases, and to actively monitor the cases in which the Government is a party, till their timely conclusion.

19) Responsive governance is the watchword of this Government. Already the Hon'ble Chief Minister has appointed a Special Officer to resolve all the grievance petitions received during the programme "Ungal Thoguthiyil Muthalamaichar" within a period of 100 days. I am happy to inform this House that despite the pandemic, already 63,500 petitions have been resolved.

20) The Covid pandemic has disrupted all sectors and exposed several structural weaknesses in the economy, as well as in governance structures. Such a crisis also provides the motivation and the opportunity for long overdue structural reforms. This Government feels the current model of human resources management, backbone data systems, and audit and oversight functions need a thorough overhaul. Simplification of methods and processes, while retaining and enhancing accountability, will lead to improved impact for the citizens for every rupee spent by this Government.

21) This Government will make all efforts to ensure transparency and accountability by promoting e-Governance and providing substantially enhanced access to Government services through the online mode. Online open access from anywhere will be enabled to ensure that "any time any place services" are made available.

22) New technology solutions will be adopted for timely dissemination of information of natural disaster related news and alert messages to the public. First responders from neighborhoods, including NGOs, will be trained to handle the initial response in disasters and their functioning will be integrated with the functioning of the Government machinery in disaster response and management.

23) Providing clean administration is the highest priority. The Lok Ayukta will be revitalized and empowered to deal with complaints against public authorities including elected representatives and Government officials. The Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) will be energized and pending complaints dealt with expeditiously. A Right to Services Act will be introduced to streamline the delivery of various public services by Government agencies.

24) There can be no social justice when there is high economic inequality and stratification. Inclusive growth is thus the priority of this Government. Growth and progress must benefit all of society, not just the top of the economic pyramid.

25) In recent years, we have seen a slow down in Tamil Nadu's economic growth rate. This Government will make all out efforts to reverse this trend and usher in a period of rapid economic growth taking full advantage of the

available limited window of the demographic dividend. To chart out a rapid and inclusive economic growth path for Tamil Nadu, this Government will constitute an "Economic Advisory Council to the Chief Minister" with leading economic experts from all over the world as its members. They include the Nobel Laureate Prof. Esther Duflo of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA, Prof. Raghuram Rajan, former Governor, Reserve Bank of India, Dr. Arvind Subramanian, former Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India, Prof. Jean Dreze, Development Economist and Dr. S.Narayan, former Union Finance Secretary. Based on the recommendations of this Council, the Government will revitalize the State's economy and ensure that the benefits of economic growth reach all segments of society.

26) The fiscal health of the State is a cause for concern, and this Government will focus on improving the fiscal position and bringing down the overall debt burden. As a first step, a report (white paper) detailing the true state of Tamil Nadu's finances will be released in the month of July, so that the people of Tamil Nadu are fully informed.

27) This Government believes that accurate data should support all decision making, especially for decisions that allocate scarce resources among competing claims. Data based decision making will also increase the transparency of the Government's functioning in the eyes of citizens. Projects will be undertaken on the same basis, including some funded by international financial institutions.

28) Farmers are the backbone of the Country. In recognition of their role and importance, this Government has renamed the Department of Agriculture as the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. The emphasis will be on new technologies, new methods of cultivation and modernizing agriculture with the active participation of Farmers' Producers Groups, Uzhavar Nala Sangams and experts. To increase farmers' income, allied activities like animal husbandry, value added farming, organic farming and cultivation of horticultural crops will be promoted. The Government will introduce a separate annual budget for agriculture with the objective of increasing agricultural productivity and protecting farmers' welfare.

29) Uzhavar Sandhais established by late Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar will be revitalized and more such farmers' markets will be established in the State. To protect farmers, rural markets will be created under Government's supervision. The initiative of supplying vegetables and fruits to people at their doorsteps in vehicles during the Covid lockdown period was well received and will be continued and expanded.

30) This Government will take all steps to achieve the target of 125 lakh Metric Tonnes of food grain production during 2021-2022. This year, water for Kuruvai cultivation in the Cauvery delta has been released as scheduled on 12th June. Desilting a length of 4,061 kilometers of channels has been taken up and is being completed on a war footing to ensure that water reaches the tail end areas.

31) Management of water resources is of crucial importance to a water deficient State like Tamil Nadu. Hence, a separate Ministry for Water Resources has been established. New legislation to regulate ground water use will be enacted to protect the interests of farmers and common people dependent on ground water. The energy and enthusiasm of the youth will be harnessed to restore and conserve water bodies across Tamil Nadu.

32) This Government will strive hard to protect Tamil Nadu's interests in inter-State river water issues. We strongly urge the Union Government to reject the Mekedatu Project proposed by Karnataka, which is in violation of the Judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. This Government will request the Government of Kerala and the Union Government to quickly accord the requisite clearances for carrying out the remaining works for strengthening the Mullai Periyar Dam.

33) This Government is committed to expedite the Cauvery-Gundaru link project which was commenced on 9th February, 2009 by the former Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar with the foundation stone laying for the Kattalai barrage across the Cauvery at Mayanur, between Karur and Tiruchirappalli. This Government is committed to complete the Athikadavu-Avinashi scheme. Under the Parambikulam Aliyar agreement, Kerala has completed the construction of the Idaimalaiyaru Dam. As a follow up, this Government will initiate talks with the Government of Kerala to construct the Anamalaiyar dam.

34) This Government will protect the interests of our fishing community, including taking up the issue of retrieval of Katchatheevu with the Government of India. This Government will urge the Union Government to devise a permanent solution to repeated instances of assault, arrest and even loss of life of fishermen from Tamil Nadu at the hands of the Sri Lankan Navy. This Government will call upon the Government of India to constitute a National Commission for the Welfare of Fishermen to look into all aspects relating to the welfare of marine and inland fishermen.

35) One of the first five orders of this Government was the reduction in retail price of Aavin milk by Rs.3 per litre, which greatly benefited middle-class families. As a result, the sale of Aavin milk in the entire State has increased by about 1.5 lakh litres per day.

36) The supply of free rice to each ration card will be continued. All eligible persons who apply for a ration card will be provided a smart card within fifteen days. The procurement of commodities like pulses, palm oil and sugar under the Special Public Distribution System which had been launched by former Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar in 2007, has been streamlined resulting in substantial cost savings to the public exchequer.

37) This Government has constituted a committee chaired by Justice A.K.Rajan to study the adverse impact of NEET on socially and educationally backward students. Based on the recommendations of the committee, the Government will introduce necessary

legislation to ensure that the students of Tamil Nadu are not adversely affected by NEET and will take necessary steps to obtain the consent of the Hon'ble President for such legislation. The Anna Centenary Library will be renovated and revitalised. Work on a world-class public library in the name of the former Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar at Madurai at a cost of Rs.70 crore will be commenced shortly.

38) Consistent efforts will be made to make education for children universal and inclusive. Utmost priority will be given to providing quality education for all children studying in Government Schools. This Government will make all out efforts to ensure Tamil Nadu reaches the top rank in the Performance Grading Index (PGI) brought out by the Ministry of Education, Government of India by focusing on the domain of Learning Outcomes and Quality, where the State's ranking was pulled down in 2019-2020. A mission mode project that will ensure continuity of education delivery will be implemented. ICT will be leveraged, and refresher courses will be delivered to children in order to make up for learning losses during the pandemic period.

39) Preserving lives and livelihoods during the Covid pandemic has been the priority of this Government. Accordingly, factories and commercial establishments have been allowed to function wherever possible, strictly in accordance with the standard operating procedures. The functioning of the unorganized sector workers welfare boards will be strengthened and the Government will effectively support the members in times of their need. Focused programmes to provide enhanced job and self-employment opportunities through skill training will be implemented. Skill training programmes across Government Departments will be better integrated through the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation.

40) This Government has taken measures to ensure the speedy revival of industries that have been hit hard by the Covid pandemic. While the Hon'ble Chief Minister has taken up the issue of loan repayment moratorium for small borrowers with the Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India, this Government has been quick on its part to provide relief to MSMEs during the pandemic period. Additional liquidity was infused into the sector by accelerating the release of capital and interest subsidies from the State Government. The time limits for payment of dues to TANSIDCO and for renewals of 15 statutory licenses were extended. The Government also extended till December 2021 the exemption from payment of stamp duty for registering Memoranda of Deposits while availing loans from financial institutions. The period for payment of Profession Tax by workers of industrial units was also extended by three months.

41) The focus of industrial policy will be on the further diversification of the industrial base of Tamil Nadu, both geographically and sectorally and to ensure technological upgradation. An expert committee consisting of industrialists, banking and financial experts and Government officials will be constituted to formulate schemes for revival of MSMEs. Just as the former Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar took measures to promote industrial

development in the southern Districts based on the recommendations of the Justice Rathnavel Pandian committee, this Government will take all necessary steps to ensure that more industries are established and employment opportunities created in the northern Districts covered under the Chennai-Kanniyakumari Industrial Corridor and the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor which are still industrially backward.

42) Ensuring uninterrupted power supply to all categories of electricity consumers in the State is the foremost objective of this Government. TANGEDCO and TANTRANSCO are facing severe financial crisis due to mismanagement in recent years. A detailed strategic study of the finances and governance structure of TANGEDCO and TANTRANSCO will be carried out. New power generation capacity will be added through the speedy execution of long pending power projects and by promoting renewable energy including re-energisation of old and inefficient wind mills. Renewed emphasis will be placed on conservation of energy and reduction of distribution losses by use of modern technology and microgrids.

43) This Government believes strongly in the principle of Local Self Governance and will revitalize the Rural and Urban Local Bodies in the State. Elections to rural local bodies in the remaining nine Districts and all urban local bodies were due in 2016 and not held. Necessary steps will be taken to hold Elections after the intensity of the Covid pandemic subsidies and after ensuring that the delimitation exercise undertaken previously is appropriate in all respects.

44) Provision of rural housing, drinking water supply, street lights, roads connectivity and recharge of water bodies, will be emphasised. Ensuring supply of drinking water to each house directly in both urban and rural areas will be the highest priority of this Government.

45) This Government will focus on the speedy completion of the construction of houses taken up for the poor and downtrodden in rural and urban areas. All eligible beneficiaries identified for the allotment of houses will be provided with a house.

46) Satellite towns will be developed in sub-urban areas with modern amenities to decongest large cities in the State. Regional plans will be prepared to cover the entire State. The preparation of the Third Master Plan for Chennai in consultation with all stakeholders will be completed well before the due date of 2026.

47) The boundaries of Chennai Corporation were extended by including 42 adjacent local bodies. There are still gaps in the basic infrastructure in these added areas, which will be addressed. When the Hon'ble Chief Minister was the Mayor of Chennai Corporation, several steps were taken to create "Singara Chennai". 'Singara Chennai 2.0' programme will be launched to provide modern world class infrastructure and services in Greater Chennai Corporation.

48) A new model for enhanced urban governance capability, citizen focused service delivery in key areas including mobility and water supply and to enhance the resilience of

cities will be established. Chennai Metro Flood Management Committee, comprising experts in environment, urban planning, disaster management, will be established to devise flood control methods and design storm water drains to reduce the detrimental impact of floods.

49) Upgrading the highways road network will be accorded top priority. A systematic plan to upgrade, widen and strengthen major highways will be taken up. Bye-passes will be formed for all major towns. Necessary steps will be taken to expedite the Maduravoyal to Chennai Port elevated road project which was needlessly stalled.

50) The Government led by the former Hon'ble Chief Minister Kalaignar had initiated the work on the Chennai Metro Rail Project in 2009. This Government will ensure speedy completion of the Metro Rail Project Phase II. We urge the Government of India to accord early approval for equity participation on 50:50 sharing basis as was done for Phase I. Feasibility studies for Mass Rapid Transit Systems for Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Salem and Tirunelveli will be taken up.

51) This Government is also fully committed to modernize and ensure the efficient functioning of the bus transport system in the State. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has launched a scheme for free travel for women, persons with disabilities and transgenders in all ordinary town buses. This is an historic step which will promote greater participation of women in economic activity and increase the modal share of public transportation.

52) A Master Plan for fully realising Tamil Nadu's tourism potential will be unveiled in the current year. Heritage tourism will be given a boost by restoring and renovating old forts and palaces while retaining their originality.

53) Tamil Nadu's Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Act has been a model legislation for the entire Country. This Government is committed to promote transparency and accountability in temple management. The assets, lands and properties of temples will be protected. A State Level Advisory Committee for all major Hindu temples will be constituted to enhance facilities for devotees, improve the maintenance of temples and to advise on related issues.

54) This Government will launch special initiatives to address all aspects of women's wellbeing, development and empowerment. The focus will be on enhancing women's health status including reproductive health care and screening against cancer. Safety of women from harassment in the work place, protection against cybercrime and prevention of domestic violence will be prioritized. To encourage greater work participation by women, working womens' hostels will be established in every District.

55) The Self Help Group (SHG) movement in Tamil Nadu will be revitalized through convergence and comprehensive financial inclusion efforts. The SHG-bank credit linkage will be further strengthened to increase the economic activity of these groups. This Government will enhance marketing linkages including through e-commerce for products made by SHGs.

56) True to the immortal words of Kaniyan Poongundranar “Yaadhum Oorae Yaavarum Kelir”, we welcome people from all parts of India, and indeed the world to come join our vibrant community. At the same time, this Government will ensure that native Tamils, especially those that have studied in Tamil-medium and Government Schools, are given priority in recruitment for Government posts. The requisite changes to undo past orders which are contrary to this intent will be undertaken at the earliest. This Government will urge the Union Government to ensure that people from Tamil Nadu are given priority in appointments in Government of India Offices and Public Sector Undertakings in Tamil Nadu.

57) This Government will always strive to preserve the ideals of social justice and to secure the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes. The Reservation Policy of Tamil Nadu is now 100 years old, and has stood the test of time, delivering true social justice. The 69% reservation currently available in Tamil Nadu will be continued and protected.

58) This Government will urge the Government of India to remove the income criteria for determining the creamy layer for the Union Government’s OBC reservation and in the interim to raise the current income limit of Rs.8 lakh to Rs.25 lakh. This Government will also ensure that the authority of the State Governments to determine the backwardness of different communities is not compromised in any way.

59) Backlog of unfilled vacancies intended for Adi-Dravidars and Scheduled Tribes in Government jobs will be filled through a special recruitment drive. The process of issuing Scheduled Tribe certificates will be simplified and expedited. Modern solid and liquid waste management technologies and equipment will be fully deployed to ensure a safe and hygienic working environment for sanitary workers.

60) This Government will act on the basis of the Sachar Committee recommendations and more effectively implement schemes for educational advancement, economic empowerment and greater access to housing for minorities. The lands of the Wakf Board will be protected through necessary administrative and legal action.

61) The Hon’ble Chief Minister has retained the portfolio of the Welfare of the Differently-Abled with himself, indicating the importance this Government accords to ensuring the welfare of this most vulnerable group. The provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 will be implemented with greater effectiveness. The Department of Differently-Abled Welfare will be significantly strengthened with greater field presence to ensure that the benefits of various care, rehabilitation and support programmes reach the differently-abled.

62) The former Hon’ble Chief Minister Kalaignar coined the term “Thirunangai” for transgenders, for the first time, in 2008. He established the “Thirunangai Welfare Board” and implemented welfare schemes through the board. In order to improve the lives and livelihoods of “Thirunangai”, skill training will be provided for increasing job opportunities and self-employment activities.

63) Pursuit of sports and games improves physical and mental well being of individuals and society. High performance coaching, cash incentives, travel expenses for participation in competitions would be provided for athletes from the State to enable them to win more medals in Olympics and other International competitions. Recruitment of sports persons under sports quota in Government Departments will be effectively implemented.

64) This Government fully recognises the important role Government officials play in ensuring that the benefits of Government schemes reach the people. This Government will ensure that the welfare of Government officials and pensioners is fully protected. The New Health Insurance Scheme for Government officials and pensioners will be implemented with substantially enhanced benefits.

65) The Government is determined to overcome all the challenges it faces and provide effective governance and rekindle economic growth in the State across all sectors. Ultimately, this Government would govern for the people and ensure that the benefits of social justice and economic development reach all segments of society. In this address, I have outlined various policy initiatives that the Government intends to implement in furtherance of the promises that have been made to the people of the State. More such initiatives will be outlined in the ensuing Budget as well.

66) People of this State have voted each one of you to this August House with very high expectations. I have no doubt that all of you will work hard to fulfil these expectations and will constructively contribute to democratic debate, discussion and interpellation in keeping with the great traditions of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.

67) This Government will be driven by the fundamental principle of social justice, "everything for everyone" and will serve as a Government for all. This will be a people's Government and not a party's Government. This Government will govern in a manner that all the people in the State will be united in proudly and whole heartedly proclaiming it, "Our Government".

68) This Government is determined to transform Tamil Nadu into a State with a society with self-respect, with an empowered citizenry enjoying their rights and which is prosperous in all respects, as envisioned by Thanthai Periyar.

69) Marching forward along the path laid down by the incomparable Dravidian ideologue and the architect of modern Tamil society, Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar, we will elevate the State to a level where all States in India will look up to Tamil Nadu. We will establish beyond doubt that our beloved Tamil Nadu is an unparalleled State in India. I conclude this address by seeking the co-operation of each and every one of you in this endeavour.

Nandri !

Vanakkam !

'This is harbinger of things to come, Government will keep every promise and chart saga of progress'

Reply of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin** to the debate on the Hon'ble Governor's address on 24.06.2021 *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

I commence my reply, keeping in my heart Thanthai Periyar who aroused the Tamil race with a baton, Perarignar Anna who integrated it as a lovable entity and Muthamizh Arignar Thalaivar Kalaignar who attracted people from different regions through the single epithet 'udanpirappu' (sibling).

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The Hon'ble Governor delivered a good address in this great Legislative Assembly on June 21, pointing out the goals and views of Government of Tamil Nadu. I wish to convey my heart-felt gratitude to him as Chief Minister and in my own personal capacity.

While I commence my speech thanking all those who participated in the debate, I wish to offer my thanks and respects at this hour to my Kolathur Constituency voters in the first place who elected and sent me to this House, to all my party men who were responsible for the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's great victory, to the Alliance Parties who worked with us shoulder to shoulder and to the people of dear Tamil Nadu who, with great expectations and confidence in us, have given us a big opportunity to serve them.

When I behold and occupy the honoured seat of the 'Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu', my thoughts revolve around last one century's historic events and the great and unique heroes who made history as Chief Ministers. Excitement, wonder and surprise grip me as a result.

Particularly, the Justice Party, the forerunner for the Dravidian Movement, ruled Tamil Nadu for about 17 years – from 1920 to 1937. It was the party which first issued orders for social justice, smashed the hegemony of the Sanskrit language, recognized rights for women, gave representation to them, introduced reforms in the field of education, sowed the seeds for social reforms and nurtured social justice. Under the British dyarchy, with limited powers, it implemented visionary schemes

and pioneering reforms. Hundred years have passed by since the Justice Party, the progenitor of the Dravidian Movement ruled the Madras (Chennai) Presidency.

With the limited powers it had in those days, the Justice Party established caste-based reservation, took care of the welfare of scheduled caste people and safeguarded temples. I consider the resumption of rule by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam at this time when 100 years have passed by from the assumption of power by the Justice Party, as a matter of pride. The present D.M.K. rule is based on the foundation of social justice and an egalitarian society, paved by Thiagarayar, Natesanar and T.M.Nair. In 1967, when Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam became the ruling party for the first time, Perarignar Anna said: "This rule is a continuation of the rule of the Justice Party". Likewise, I wish to proudly say that our rule is also the continuation of the Justice Party rule.

The Justice party's successor was Perarignar Anna! Perarignar Anna's successor was Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar! I have succeeded Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar! This Government too is his successor! The people of Tamil Nadu have put the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam on the throne with the hope that we alone can sustain the Tamil race and develop it. The Hon'ble Governor has only outlined this Government's policies, Tamil Nadu's goals and our visionary outlook.

It is my duty to remember at this hour, Cuddalore A. Subbarayalu Reddiar, the Justice party's first premier, Perunthalaivar Kamarajar, Congress Chief Minister, Perarignar Anna who formed the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, put it on the throne and was Chief Minister, our Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar who set a record of ruling for 19 years by getting elected as Chief Minister five times and other worthy wise Chief Ministers. We cannot forget that recalling our predecessors is an inevitable part of Tamil culture.

In the last two days, 22 Hon'ble Members belonging to the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Indian National Congress, Pattali Makkal Katchi, Bharatiya Janata Party, Viduthalai Siruthaigal Katchi, Communist Party of India, Communist Party of India (Marxist), Marumalarchi D.M.K., Manithaneya Makkal Katchi, Kongunadu Makkal Desiya Katchi and Tamizhaga Vazhvurimai Katchi spoke on the Hon'ble Governor's address (to the Assembly), highlighting their views. I take all your views as healthy suggestions to this Government because I am the political heir of Perarignar Anna; heir to Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar's policy.

The Ministers concerned have noted down the demands and Constituency problems put forward by Members in their speeches. I wish to state that appropriate action will be taken on them certainly, definitely, after consulting the department officials.

This Government's term is for five years. It is not possible to list in the Governor's address all the schemes to be implemented,

all the policies and demands. The Governor's address is a summary of policies for the year. Everything, Government's intentions for the next 5 years, motive, schemes, the approach to be adopted, its actions cannot all be contained in it. The Governor's address is only a harbinger of things to come. To put it simply, it is like a 'trailer'. As it used to be said in the olden days "see the whole film in the silver screen shortly", all things – the path chalked out by this Government, the journey to be undertaken, the difficulties to be faced en route, the tactics for removing those difficulties, the challenges, the strategies to be employed to meet them etc., will be given out in detail in the Budget to be placed in this House.

"The patient rule the earth" goes the adage. We waited for 10 years. Only now, we have taken up the reins of administration. We will certainly carry out our promises. You need not have an iota of doubt.

The Leader of the Opposition has stated: "Not a single promise of the 505 given in the election manifesto has been kept". Counting the present day also, just 49 days have passed since we came to power. Still, Hon'ble Members of the Opposition Party have exhibited their expectations, out of their faith in me and in the D.M.K. Government, that all the assurances could have been implemented by now! For that I should thank them at the outset. All the expectations of the people of Tamil Nadu will certainly be fulfilled. No one need to doubt that.

From the first day of our governance, we are implementing the assurances we have given to the people, one by one. We have thrown ourselves fully into the task.

You all would have seen in the media the replies of the general public for the question – "How is the performance of the D.M.K. Government in the first 30 days." Many have

recorded their regret for failing to vote for the D.M.K. After the D.M.K.'s victory, I told the people of Tamil Nadu from the memorial of Muthamizh Arignar Thalaivar Kalaignar through the media that my service will be such as to give joy to the voters who have voted for us and make those who have not, regret for having

missed the opportunity to vote for us". In this respect, I feel that our works are proceeding in an excellent way and I derive from this sentiment, the impetus for a better performance.

I assumed office at the Secretariat after being sworn in at the Raj Bhavan and immediately ordered distribution of Corona relief of Rs.4,000. The first instalment of Rs.2,000 was disbursed in the month of May itself; the balance of Rs.2,000 was given on June 3, the Birth Anniversary of Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar. Two crore eleven lakh families have benefited to the tune of Rs.8,393 crore. We reduced Aavin milk price by Rs.3 per litre and implemented this from 16.05.2021 itself. We issued orders for free travel of women in urban Government buses and extended the facility to transgenders and differently-abled persons. I launched the scheme 'Chief Minister in your Constituency' for redressing in 100 days, the

grievances petitioned to me. Till date, till this morning, if I have to present accurate statistics, 75,546 petitions have been dealt with and grievances redressed.

We directed that payment of treatment charges for Corona patients in Private Hospitals should come under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme. This has benefited 20,520 patients. Towards treatment of black fungus for 330 persons, Rs.77.53 lakh has been paid.

A War Room was created to control Corona. As inoculation alone is the life-saving armour, vaccination has been converted into a mass movement. This has brought about a great awareness in people and in 47 days after this Government assumed charge, 65 lakh jabs have been given. This is double the number of dosages given earlier.

All the Members talked about Corona. Corona was at its peak when we came to power. On May 7, the number of persons affected by Corona was 26,000 and it was rising to 36,000 per day and medical experts predicted the increase to 50,000 and more. In the beginning, it appeared to be a great challenge but it came down gradually and came below 7,000 on account of the steps taken by this Government on a war footing. We are sure it will go down even further. When we were about to take up governance, the position was, 'no beds; no oxygen facility'. In our regime, we have wiped out the word 'no'.

New beds were created – with oxygen facility and fit for intensive care. I wish to inform the people through this House that in the last one and a half months alone, 89,618 beds have been created in Tamil Nadu.

The third Corona wave should not hit us. Even if it does, this Government has the capacity to face and tackle it. The infection came down only because of the Government's action. But the Leader of the Opposition has stated that only 7,000 persons were affected in their rule and in D.M.K.'s rule, 26,000 have been affected. He had in mind the date February 26 when

the election date was announced. He was the Chief Minister till May 6. The Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition had spoken in this House on June 22 as if his duty and responsibility was over with the date 26.02.2021 when the election date was announced for Tamil Nadu. He spoke thus: "On 26.02.2021, when the election date was declared, only 481 persons were affected by Corona. The code of conduct for election came into force then. So, I could not talk to officials. Still, I talked to the Chief Secretary and suggested consultations with District Collectors and medical experts. The Chief Secretary said that the Election Commission's permission was needed as the code of conduct has come into force. I wrote to the Election Commission on this subject. But the Election Commission replied only to the Chief Secretary. The Chief Secretary held the consultations. When I was Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu was in the forefront in Corona prevention work." My question is whether the then Chief Minister did not attend to any Government work after 26.02.2021.

On 12.04.2021, the then Chief Minister held a consultation meeting at Fort. St. George, with senior Ministers and Government officials; on that date, the number of persons affected by Corona was 6,618. On 17.04.2021, a consultation took place headed by the Chief Secretary; a Government note states, the minutes of that meeting were informed to the then Chief Minister; the Corona infection number on that date was 8,499. On 18.04.2021, the then Chief Minister invited high officials and held consultations; the number of those affected in Tamil Nadu on the next day was 10,941. On 26.04.2021, the then Chief Minister wrote to the Hon'ble Prime Minister for provision of more vaccine doses; the number of those affected

on that day became 15,659. A Government note states that steps were taken to procure vaccination doses on the orders of the then Chief Minister on 28.04.2021. The number of Corona infections on that day was 16,665. This is the true picture.

That is, in the whole of April month, works were carried out under the supervision of the then Chief Minister. But the fact is that Corona was not controlled. On May 2, votes were counted; on that day, the Corona affected 19,588 persons. For all these, the earlier A.I.A.D.M.K. Government should own responsibility. From March 6 itself, Corona infections increased in Tamil Nadu. On March 30th the Commission for Protection of Child Rights had cautioned the Tamil Nadu Education Department that the second Corona wave had started in Tamil Nadu on that day itself. From April 6, its spread gained strength. The number of persons affected shot up from 5,000 to 19,000. Hence, the argument that the A.I.A.D.M.K. Government had controlled Corona is very, very wrong. It is not known whether anybody had bound his hands to stop him from engaging in Corona prevention works. There was a film titled "Naduvule konjam pakkatha kaanom" ('some pages are missing in the middle'). I wish to ask whether the A.I.A.D.M.K., like that film, had forgotten its more than two month rule, from February 26 to May 6. Its carelessness after coming to know that it is not coming back to power, resulted in the number of affected persons rising to 26,000. I wish to state that it is the D.M.K.'s great achievement to have controlled such a worse situation.

The present Leader of the Opposition said that when Corona struck, nothing was known about it; even Doctors were in the dark; there was neither medicine nor vaccination. In that

confused situation, I told him to convene an all-party leaders meeting. I repeated it several times. “Is Stalin a Doctor?” was the query then put by the present Leader of the Opposition. I was not angry, really.

The fact is that after the outbreak of Corona, all people have become Doctors in Tamil Nadu. They conversed as semi-Doctors. So, hereafter, no one can ask whether you are a Doctor. The situation is such.

My purpose in calling for an all-party meeting was to get suggestions from all sides. After the D.M.K. formed the Government, we set up a committee inclusive of representatives from all Legislature Parties. On behalf of the A.I.A.D.M.K., former Hon’ble Minister Dr. Vijayabaskar took part in that committee. This Government takes action based on this committee’s suggestions. So rightfully, I humbly request you at this hour to continue to forward to the Government the demands and suggestions of all Hon’ble Members through your representatives in the committee.

This is not a political issue; not a party issue; not even that of a Government. This is the people’s issue; an issue concerned with people’s health. The Leader of the Opposition said: “I did not mean to find fault; all should work unitedly”. For this, I convey my thanks to him again and again. I firmly wish to say in this House that this Government will put a full stop to Corona by working together and getting suggestions from all sides.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

To continue with the D.M.K. Government's achievements further, all the cases filed against the protestors in the Thoothukudi Sterlite Factory case and against the Party Leaders who lent their voice for the people, have been dropped. The heirs of persons who lost their lives in the Sterlite agitation – 17 in all – have been given employment commensurate with their educational qualifications. A relief of Rupees One lakh each has been given to 94 persons who suffered injuries in the Sterlite agitation. A committee with Members of all Legislative Parties has been set up to give suggestions regarding Corona prevention measures.

We have emphasized to the Hon'ble Prime Minister the revival of the vaccination centre at Chengalpattu and the Pasteur Institute in Ooty. We have announced and implemented a relief of Rs.10 lakh to media personnel in the event of death due to Corona infection. Oxygen Regulators and Cylinders have been purchased from Singapore and the Middle East Countries including the United Arab Emirates.

We have announced and implemented many benefits like creating a fixed deposit for Rs. 5 lakh and a monthly maintenance of Rs.3,000 to children who have lost both the parents to Corona and an immediate relief of Rs.3 lakh and the taking over of the payment of education and hostel fees by Government itself to children who have lost one parent.

We have given a relief assistance of Rs.4,000 to archakas, bhattacharyas and poojaris who serve the temples without a monthly salary, an incentive amount to medical frontline workers, Rs. 5,000 incentive to Police Personnel from Constable to inspector and a relief assistance to transgenders.

Families of Doctors and Police Personnel who have died in corona prevention work were given Rs.25 lakh each. It is proposed to set up a hospital at a cost of Rs.250 crore in Chennai. An announcement has been made to set up a big library in the name of Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar at a cost of Rs. 70 crore in Madurai.

Other announcements made were 'Ilakkiyamamani' award for Tamil writers and a dream house for them to live, and erecting a statue to the topmost Tamil writer K.Rajanarayanan at Kovilpatti, as a memorial for him.

Paddy warehouses and drying yards will be set up in Tiruvarur District at an estimate of Rs. 30 crore. A Commission, headed by Justice (retired) A.K. Rajan to study the impact of NEET examination and another Commission headed by retired Chief Justice Murugesan for greater enrolment of Government school students in technical education have been set up. Eight personalities including Prof. Jayaranjan have been appointed to the State Development Policy Council.

Grocery articles of 14 varieties have been supplied to all family card holders at an expenditure of Rs.977.11 crore. Permission for 15 oil wells, sought by ONGC in Ariyalur and Cuddalore Districts, has been rejected.

In continuation of the release of water from Mettur dam on June 12, desilting works in Cauvery canals to a length of 4,061 km have been taken up. With a list of 25 important demands needed for Tamil Nadu, we have met the Hon'ble Prime Minister and explained them in detail. We have condemned the Karnataka Government and asked them to drop the proposal to construct the Mekedatu dam. A financial assistance of Rs.20 lakh each has been given to the families of 21 fishermen who could not be traced in the Tauktae cyclone. We

have started a new electricity consumer service centre, 'Minnagam'.

Besides these, we have made a number of policy announcements through the Governor's address three days back. This is my reply to those who say this Government has not done anything.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

I have pointed out here only a few of the very important achievements we have made within 50 days so far. The Opposition Parties may hide them but people certainly know it very well.

In his speech on the debate on Governor's address, the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition quoted a saying that, "the sound of the bell ringing will reach us first; the elephant will then follow" and stated that "there is neither the sound of a bell nor any sign of an elephant in this statement (address)". I congratulate him for using the word elephant. A bell will be fastened only on a tamed elephant. I wish to state that the D.M.K. is an elephant that cannot be tamed by anyone. The strength of the elephant is in its four legs. The D.M.K. also stands on the strength of "social justice, self-respect, language-race affinity and State autonomy"; so does this Government. Those who read this Governor's address will see the imprints of social justice, self-respect, the good we propose to do to the Tamil language and Tamils and our clarion call for State autonomy.

All people know how the Tamil Nadu treasury has changed direction, shape, become emaciated and is lying decrepit. Our first task is to rectify it. Keeping all these in mind, we have set up a consultation committee of expert economists including the former Governor of Reserve Bank of India Prof. Raghuram Rajan. As the poor, marginalized, middle class people

and the working class stand deprived of their livelihood in the present financial situation, we are sharing the financial resources with them. We will examine deeply how to improve the available resources, share the increase, how to protect and raise the State's riches and welfare and act with equity. I request you to acknowledge my sense of determination.

In haste, you faulted the Governor's address as being bereft of this and that. The D.M.K.'s electoral promises find a place in the Governor's address. I wish to point them out – a separate budget for agriculture; revival of farmer shandies; Tamil to become one of the official languages of India; retrieval of small and micro industries; industrialization of northern Districts; new satellite towns; priority to Tamil in the Institutions of Union Government and Public sector units in Tamil Nadu; safeguarding of 69 per cent reservation; opposition to Mekedatu dam; retrieval of Katchatheevu; cancellation of NEET examination; local bodies election; filling up of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes; setting up of Greater Chennai Flood Water Management Committee; a high-level consultation committee at the State level to give suggestions for streamlining the maintenance of temples; women's hostels District-wise for working women; effective implementation of the recommendations of the Sachar Committee by this Government; introduction of a law for the right to services; a white paper on the financial situation; an experts committee to revive economy – many such announcements find a place in the Governor's address. The D.M.K. election manifesto covers all these.

Perarignar Anna once asked: "What would you think of those who, standing in Tiruchi and ignoring the Rock Fort, the bounteous Cauvery river and the Grand Anaicut there, ask 'where is Thillai Natarajar?' I wish to point out this statement of Perarignar Anna to persons who are concerned about what has not been said in the Governor's address, ignoring what has been said there.

Tell us if we have deviated from our principles. Instead, if you harp on what has not been mentioned, your charge will be improper. If a book has to contain the names of all persons, it can only be a telephone directory. This Governor's address is a book that outlines the path the D.M.K. Government will tread.

I wish to thank all those who have offered their views and suggestions on this Address, all those who have thanked and appreciated it and also those who have perhaps forgotten to thank.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

I wish to make some announcements for giving a practical shape to some of the important ideas given in the Governor's address.

Though Corona infections have come down, many people have stated – and continue to say that some complications occur for the cured Corona patients. For their continued treatment post-COVID clinics will be opened in all Government Medical College Hospitals. These

clinics will function with the required specialist Doctors.

I firmly believe that suitable job opportunities for our youth - boys and girls – will form the basis for their progress and for the growth of our Tamil society. With this aim, we have announced the setting up of job intensive industries in the under-developed northern Districts. In the first phase of this venture, big industries are to come up at Cheyyar and Tindivanam, the former to provide job opportunities for 12,000 and the latter for 10,000 persons.

All the cases filed by the Government in the previous regime against the media to stifle freedom of expression, against farmers who agitated against the three agriculture laws, against the protestors of the citizenship amendment act and those who fought in a peaceful way against the methane, neutrino, Koodankulam atomic plant and Salem eight-lane express way schemes, will be withdrawn.

In the name of Thanthai Periyar who fought for an egalitarian society, Muthamizh Arignar Thalaivar Kalaignar constructed about 240 Samathuvapurams. They have not been maintained properly. Those Samathuvapurams will be immediately rectified. Not only that, more Samathuvapurams will be created.

The D.M.K. election manifesto assured an allotment of Rs.1,000 crore for the renovation of temples. In the first phase, renovation works, restoration of temple tanks, renovation of temple cars and holding festivals will be undertaken in 100 temples in the current financial year at a cost of Rs.100 crore.

Many of the Hon'ble Members spoke in praise of the Governor's address and a few, particularly the Hon'ble Members of the Opposition Parties spoke pointing out certain things they consider as defects. Speaking as if there is nothing in the Governor's address will not make it the truth. People too will not consider it so. They are watching everything. At the first meeting of officials after the D.M.K. assumed the responsibility of governance, I stressed: "I don't need praise; tell me the facts." I said so out of the good intention that constructive ideas should be put forth. But, setting aside the positive aspects and proclaiming loudly fabricated non-existent defects will not show the way to a healthy democracy. However, Opposition Party men will search for defects and make it public. That is why they are called the Opposition Party. Democracy provides room for alternative ideas and thoughts. I will not be carried away by praise; nor will I be stultified by accusations. I have seen both in excess in my life.

Praise has humbled me a lot. I will make use of it to become more mature. It has also made me cautious. The slander and insults hurled at me till now have only egged me on to be more industrious and truthful. That is how I will use it.

I continue my political journey, taking the praise and calumny heaped in this House as nutrition for my growth. Though I am the son of a great leader, I have never acted with pride. I conducted myself as the most humble worker of that leader. My party men know this. That leader also knew it.

That lovable leader who permeates my heart, has found a niche, not in the beach sands of Bay of Bengal but in the hearts of millions of people. After the demise of Muthamizh Arignar Thalaivar Kalaignar, I am sitting in his place as the Chief party worker. I don't have an iota of arrogance that I have occupied the seat of Perarignar Anna or that of Muthamizh Arignar Thalaivar Kalaignar; this is not only for today, but for ever.

I have this state of mind. What I wish to say to this House is, let us dedicate ourselves to the people of Tamil Nadu, going beyond politics and likes and dislikes.

From the day the D.M.K. took over the reins of administration for the sixth time, I and my Cabinet Ministers are restlessly on our toes to provide solace and confidence to the people of Tamil Nadu. This Country knows it; good hearted people know it.

From the Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee to 'Hindu' Ram, from economics expert Kaushik Basu and former Union Finance Minister and an intellectual in the field of economy, P. Chidamabaram to unbiased dailies and magazines, all have welcomed the D.M.K. Government's achievements in this short spell. They have heartily given 100 marks out of 100 for the Government's achievements. I owe a debt of gratitude to them.

For us, electoral promises are not a magnet to attract votes but a 'must' activity to be carried out for the Country's development and people's progress. "We will do what we say; we will say what we do" is the elementary education Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar gave for us.

With folded hands and bowing with all humility I once again pay my respects to the people of Tamil Nadu who have been instrumental in giving the D.M.K. a big victory and forming the Government for the sixth time. I convey my gratitude thousands of times repeatedly.

Can the people of Tamil Nadu who have brought a change, be forgotten? As Ramalinga Adigal emotionally stated, "even if the child forgets its own mother, even if the mother forgets her child; even if the life force forgets the body and the body forgets life; even if the mind forgets the art it has learnt and even if the eyes forget to blink", we will never forget the people of Tamil Nadu who are the motivating force in our heart.

Forgetting political and party differences and defects if any in the Governor's address as it is the first one for the D.M.K. Government in its sixth term of rule, I humbly and affectionately request you all to support this motion of thanks for the Governor's address proposed by Hon'ble Member Udhayasuriyan and seconded by Hon'ble Member T.R.B. Rajaa, and encourage my effort to create new history. At the same time, as it is the duty of the Government to serve the people, I seek your co-operation in the discharge of that task. I take leave of you, requesting you to pass this motion by accepting my explanations and withdrawing the amendments.

Hon’ble Chief Minister presents Memorandum with 25 demands to Hon’ble Prime Minister

Memorandum presented to Hon’ble Prime Minister of India **Thiru. Narendra Modi** by Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** on 17.06.2021.

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin handed over a Memorandum containing 25 major demands, including exemption of Tamil Nadu from the NEET-based admission to medical courses and scrapping of the entrance tests for admission to other professional courses.

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin sought additional allocation of COVID-19 vaccines and drugs; establishment of an All-India Institute of Medical Sciences in Coimbatore; and reservation for the Other Backward Classes in the all-India quota for admission to Under Graduate and Post Graduate Medical Courses.

The State sought the withdrawal of the income ceiling to identify Backward Classes, and an amendment to the Constitution to enable the States to allocate reservation for the Most Backward Classes and the Scheduled Castes

and the Scheduled Tribes based on their caste composition.

The State reiterated its stand against the Mekedatu dam project and sought an increase in the height of the Mullai Periyar dam. It demanded that the pending financial and GST dues be cleared.

The State wanted the Godavari-Cauvery and Cauvery-Gundar linkage schemes and the Sethusamudram shipping Canal Project expedited.

Demands in the Memorandum

- Release Pending 14th Finance Commission Grants, and GST dues.
- Commence Vaccine production at HLL Biotech unit in Chengalpattu and Pasteur Institute in Coonoor.
- Revoke National Education Policy; release grants under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.
- Expedite work on AIIMS project in Madurai.
- Special relief package for MSMEs.
- Approve phase-II of Chennai Metro Rail Project under 50:50 joint venture partnership.
- Declare Tamil as official language, use Tamil in High Court, and declare Thirukkural as National Literature.
- Execute the Maduravoyal- Chennai Port elevated road project; Chennai Airport to Chengalpattu elevated road project; sea bridge project connecting Chennai Port and Tiruvottiyur and 6-8 lane highway project between Chennai and Kanniyakumari.
- Expand Thoothukudi Port.
- Establish a regional bench of the Supreme Court in Chennai.
- New International Airport with world-class standards in Chennai; declare Madurai Airport as an International one; expand Airports in Salem and Thoothukudi.
- Drop hydrocarbon schemes and neutrino project; repeat Draft EIA notification, 2020.
- Continue the intellectual Property Rights Appellate Board in Chennai.
- Protect traditional fishing rights of Indian fishermen in the Palk Bay; retrieve Katchatheevu. Establish National Commission for the Welfare of Fishermen.
- Remove bottlenecks in the supply of coal; revoke electricity Amendment Bill, 2020.
- Release of custom Milled Rice (CMR) subsidy.
- Ensure Tamils in Sri lanka have equal and political rights.
- Pass Bill to provide 33% reservation for women in Parliament and State Legislatures.
- Amend MGNREGA to provide 150 days of employment.
- Launch Urban Wage Employment Scheme.
- New Railway projects for Tamil Nadu.

Resolve to bring Tamil Nadu's industrial development to the first place

Hon'ble Chief Minister takes pledge to make Tamil Nadu excel in industrial development

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin** at Hyundai Motor India Company's silver jubilee function on 30.06.2021*(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries and Hon'ble Minister for Labour Welfare, Thiru. Y.S.Kwon, Deputy Consul of the Republic of Korea, Thiru. Kim, Managing Director of Hyundai Motor India Limited, Legislature and Parliament Members, Government officials including District Collector, beloved friends working in Hyundai company – I wish to convey my affectionate respects, thanks and greetings to all.

You all know well that a situation has arisen in which the Government has to manage not only a medical crisis but also a financial one due to the Corona pandemic. In this situation, I appealed, as Chief Minister, to the people of Tamil Nadu to give a helping hand to the Government. Many industries participated in this and continue to help in many ways.

The Hyundai company, particularly, stood by the Government with a donation of Rs.5 crore; for that, on the Government of Tamil Nadu 's behalf, I wish to convey my thanks first. Besides donation, this company has offered medical equipment, masks and sanitizers also. I wish to express first my heart-felt thanks to this company, its administrative officers and workers.

Those who have travelled by this road know that there was no sign beyond Poonamallee before 1996. If many industries have sprung up today, no one can deny or hide the fact that it is due to the then Chief Minister and our leader Kalaignar. After 1996, it was the then Chief Minister Kalaignar who paved the way for many industries around Chennai. In different directions, Chennai to Sriperumbudur, Chennai to Chengalpattu, Chennai to Sholinganallur etc., Muthamizh Arignar Thalaivar Kalaignar created many industries post 1996 and later in 2006.

I have come here to affirm that this Government also has planned to make for industries in a similar manner. It was our Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar, then Chief Minister who inaugurated the Hyundai car manufacture in 1998 here. It was he who inaugurated the second unit also in the year 2008. In February 2011, I came to this very same Hyundai industry as Deputy Chief Minister. Through video conferencing, I declared open a hostel for the ITI students at Ulundurpet, Villupuram District. There are many instances to testify to Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar's Midas touch generally with regard to the projects he inaugurated. A standing example, we should proudly say, is this Hyundai company.

Inaugurating this car manufacturing industry, the then Chief Minister Kalaignar lauded it for providing job opportunities to 1,238 persons, 90 per cent of them from Tamil Nadu and more precisely, 637 persons from this area – Irungattukottai, Keevalur, Thandalam and Chettimedu. He mentioned all this and paid his plaudits.

The then Chief Minister Kalaignar appreciated Hyundai company in 1998 itself, not only for its car production but also for its service-mindedness. You have now donated Rs.5 crore for Corona prevention which proves that you continue to cherish this service-mindedness. This is to be appreciated. As for me, I look at Hyundai not merely as a large-scale investor in Tamil Nadu or as a large-scale car manufacturer but as a company that has played a pivotal role in putting the Sriperumbudur area on the world map as a major production hub. For this contribution, I am duty bound to congratulate you and thank all those who have exerted themselves for developing it to this extent.

It is a very great achievement that the Hyundai company has so far manufactured one crore cars. It has gained the honour in a very short period of becoming the second biggest car manufacturer in India and stands first in the export of cars. In Tamil Nadu, you have till now manufactured 31.3 lakh cars and exported them to 88 Countries. On account of this, not only has your company but also Tamil Nadu has grown. This is what one should note. You are rendering a great service to the industrial development of Tamil Nadu. I request you at this hour to expand your services still further. I request other companies also to increase their investments in Tamil Nadu like Hyundai.

Through this event, I wish to inform all enterprises and industrial barons that our Government aims at making Tamil Nadu the most conducive State for investments in the whole of South Asia. We have started the basic planning for that. We have set up a consultative committee with world famous economic experts. This has infused great confidence among industrial concerns. This announcement has laid the foundation for the world media to turn its attention to Tamil Nadu. This committee is appreciated by all economic experts. The Government of Tamil Nadu will certainly act on this committee's advice. A committee has been set up to frame the schemes. The Government of Tamil Nadu is determined to probe manifold outcomes in this way and take decisions to make for the State's development in all avenues.

The first requisite for more investments is not funds, but faith. That is the first investment. I am really proud of the fact that the Government of Tamil Nadu is being identified as a Government that carries that confidence. Not even two months have passed by since we have taken up the reins of administration but we have gained this confidence within that time. The Government has started functioning in the industrial sector with the targets of ensuring technology development, creating all round industrial development, encouraging the setting up of a lot of new industries, expansion of existing industries, dispersion of industries even at the District level and recruitment of local youth, mostly Tamils in those industries; creation of an ambience to attract industrial investments

towards Tamil Nadu and converting all Districts and Cities into industry-friendly areas. We will certainly achieve these targets soon. For that, the Hyundai company should extend its full co-operation. The Hyundai company should enthuse other companies also to start industries in Tamil Nadu as it has done. Hon'ble Minister for Industries Thiru. Thangam Thennarasu is taking excellent initiatives to make Tamil Nadu a highly industrialized State. In the D.M.K. rule at that time, we progressed in car manufacture to the extent of Chennai being called the 'Detroit of India.' We should regain the name and fame of being highly developed industrially.

Speaking at the inauguration of Hyundai company's production in 1998, Muthamizh Arignar Thalaivar Kalaignar took a resolve: "Tamil Nadu is in the fifth place in industrial development; I will bring it to the third place." He achieved that target. Likewise, I have taken a vow at this event, 'I will bring Tamil Nadu's industrial development to the first place'. To make this happen, I request all industries including Hyundai to co-operate. The Country progresses, the people progress and society progresses through industrial development. Hence, I wish to state that we will view industry not as commerce but as life itself and frame our actions in that perspective. I once again extend my hearty greetings to the staff, officials and workers who are responsible for all the achievements of Hyundai company, and I conclude my speech, wishing the Hyundai company greater and greater growth.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

New Chairman for Minorities panel

The Tamil Nadu State Minorities Commission was set up on December 13, 1989 by the then Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. M.Karunanidhi, to protect and safeguard the interests of linguistic and religious Minorities in the Tamil Nadu. In the year 2010, the Commission was made a statutory body through State Minorities Act 2010 (Act 21 of 2010) by Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar.

The Tamil Nadu State Minorities Commission is working for the educational, economic and social development of Minorities in the State. This commission has been reconstituted by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin, who has nominated Thiru. Peter Alphonse as Chairman of the Commission. Thiru. Peter Alphonse was elected to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly from the Tenkasi Constituency in the 1989 and 1991 Assembly Elections and again from the Kadayanallur Assembly Constituency in 2006.

Government will follow the instructions of Perarignar Anna and march ahead

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin,** after visiting the Anna Memorial at Kancheepuram on 30.06.2021, spoke to the media *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin said: "After the D.M.K. took over the administration of the Government of Tamil Nadu for the sixth time, I wanted to come to Kancheepuram and seek the blessings of Perarignar Anna. But due to the Corona pandemic and the subsequent lockdown in the State, I got the opportunity to visit Kancheepuram only today. Utilizing the opportunity, I visited the house of Perarignar Anna, the leader who founded the D.M.K. party and made all of us, as it were, garlanded his statue at the house where he lived, and paid my respects.

Perarignar Anna was a leader who always instructed party cadres to go to the people, live among them and serve them. I assure the people on this occasion that the D.M.K. Government will follow the instructions of Perarignar Anna and march ahead. I have also mentioned this in the visitor's book."

Replying to a question by a media person on naming various schemes, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said it would be known when the annual budget is presented.

Hon'ble Chief Minister distributes financial assistance to children orphaned by COVID-19

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** handed over financial assistance to children who lost their parents in the Corona virus pandemic, at the Secretariat on 16.06.2021.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin announced a number of measures on 29.05.2021, to go to the aid of children who had lost both their parents or either one of them due to COVID-19.

Under the package, to safeguard the future of the children who had lost both parents, Rs.5 lakh has been sanctioned. Children who lost either one of their parents have been sanctioned Rs.3 lakh. A maintenance allowance of Rs.3,000 per month will be given for the orphaned children who are under the care of their relatives or guardians. Priority will be given to these children for admission to Government Homes and Hostels. The State Government will sponsor the education of the orphaned children and take care of their education and hostel fees till they complete their studies.

The State Government issued a Government Order, authorizing the Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department to implement the order with necessary guidelines.

According to one of the features of the schemes, the relief amount of Rs. 5 lakh has been deposited in the Tamil Nadu Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation and the orphaned children will get the deposit amount along with interest when they attain the age of 18. As a token, the Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over the deposit receipts to the guardians of children at the Secretariat on 16.06.2021.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister, as immediate relief, handed over a cheque for Rs. 3 lakh to the surviving father or mother of the children who lost one of their parents due to the Corona virus. As a token, the Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over cheques for Rs.3 lakh to 5 children.

Hon’ble Chief Minister instructed to enhance the enrolment of students in higher education

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin presided over a review meeting at the Secretariat, on 02.07.2021, on the performance of Higher Education Department and the steps to be taken to achieve the Department’s goals.

At the meeting, the Hon’ble Chief Minister instructed enhancement of enrolment of students in higher education, development of infrastructure facilities and improvement of the standard of Universities.

At the All-India level, enrolment of students in higher education in Tamil Nadu is 51.4 per cent. Though this is higher than the national level percentage (27.1), in some Districts in the State the percentage is less. Far-sighted schemes to rectify this situation in the next 10 years, were discussed. Besides providing scholarships to students, introduction of suitable curriculum for job opportunities and opening of new colleges in required revenue Taluks was also deliberated upon. Action plans to improve the standard of educational institutions, to put in efforts to get NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council) certification and advance into the first 10 ranks in National Institutional Ranking Framework, were also discussed.

Increasing the enrolment percentage of girl students in Polytechnic colleges and finding ways and means for more Government school students to take to higher education were discussed. A decision was taken to conduct training classes for increasing the pass percentage of students in the GATE examination. A decision was taken to increase the infrastructure facilities so as to raise the standard of engineering colleges, to activate smart classrooms and implement the e-Governance Scheme. It was also decided to create frameworks for providing new opportunities to students by working jointly with industries and experimenting new initiatives jointly with professors. Increasing the number of hostels for engineering students was also discussed.

It was decided to develop the placement cell in Arts and Science Colleges and to introduce

job-oriented curricula. It was also decided to set up digital libraries in Arts and Science colleges for the use of students and teachers. Yet another decision was to create a conducive atmosphere for differently-abled persons in college campuses.

There were deliberations on improving the standards of Universities, lessening the financial burden through creation of a permanent fund management, creating facilities for online lectures by internationally and nationally renowned stalwarts and creating a Learning Management System (LMS) for improving the learning process. It was decided to increase the old students' participation in educational institutions and to celebrate traditional Tamil art festivals to bring out the abilities of students.

Consultation took place on filling up vacancies in a transparent manner in higher educational institutions where the vacancy level is high.

A decision was taken to digitize all rare and protected documents in the Tamil Nadu Archives. The meeting was advised to make use of the National Higher Education Mission scheme well for improving the standard of higher educational institutions, developing teachers skills and for research and innovative training.

The setting up with Government's help, of a Drone Corporation based on Anna University's pioneering effort, was deliberated upon, to enable use of drones in all sectors.

News in Picture

119th Birth Anniversary of Perunthalaivar Kamarajar

On the occasion of the 119th Birth Anniversary of Perunthalaivar Kamarajar, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** paid floral tributes to the portrait of Kamarajar placed near his statue at Anna Salai, Chennai on 15.07.2021.

Hon'ble Chief Minister distributes text books to School students, inaugurates TV lessons

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin distributed textbooks to students, and inaugurated educational programmes through TV for students studying from classes I to XII in Government and Government-aided Schools.

To encourage students studying in Government and Government-aided Schools, the Government has been distributing free textbooks to them. Admission of students has been going on in full swing throughout the State. At this juncture, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin, at a function at Anna Centenary Library in Chennai on 19.06.2021, distributed textbooks to school students.

For students from Classes 1 to Classes 12, who have not been able to attend school due to the Corona pandemic, the Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated educational programmes to enable them to study from home itself through Kalvi TV. This programme has been implemented at a cost of Rs. 292 crore. This programme will benefit about 69 lakh students studying in the Government and Government-aided Schools in the State.

Criteria announced for evaluating marks for +2 Board Exams

Announcement by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin, on the criteria for the evaluation of marks for +2 students in the Board examinations.

In view of the COVID pandemic, the Annual Examinations for Plus Two students for the Academic year 2020-2021 have been cancelled in the State. To decide on the criteria for the calculation of marks for the annual examinations, the Government of Tamil Nadu constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary, School Education Department with Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department, Vice-Chancellor of the Chennai University and School Headmasters as Members.

This committee submitted its report to the Government recently.

Already, marks secured by the students in the annual examinations of 10th and 11th classes have been announced. The Practical Examinations for the Plus Two students have also been completed and the marks have been awarded to the students.

The Government-formed committee has recommended the following methods for evaluating the marks for the Plus Two annual examinations.

1. 50 per cent weightage for the Class 10 Annual Examinations with the average of top 3 subjects as base.

2. 20 per cent weightage for every written subject in the 11th Board examinations and

3. 30 per cent for the 12th Practical Examinations and Internal assessment.

All the marks secured by the students in the Practical Examinations (20) and Internal Examinations (10) will be taken into account.

For subjects that do not have Practical Examinations, marks secured in the Internal Examinations (10) will be extrapolated to 30 marks.

For students who could not take the Plus Two Practical Examinations due to the Corona pandemic, their Practical Examinations marks in the 11th Annual Examinations will be taken into account.

For students who could not take the Practical Examinations both in the 11th and in the 12th standard, their 10th and 11th Written Examination marks will be taken into consideration for evaluating 12th Practical Examination marks.

Students who failed or could not take any of the Written Examinations last year will be given 35 per cent marks, taking into consideration that they could not write the Written Examinations now. Students who could not take written examinations, practical and Internal of the 11th standard and the Practical Examinations of the 12th standard, will be given an opportunity to appear as private candidates.

Marks of every student evaluated as per the above method will be published in the website of the Directorate of Government Examinations before July 31, as per the directive of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. If a student is not satisfied with the marks awarded to him through the above method, he will be given an opportunity to write his 12th Standard Annual Examinations, to be conducted later and the marks scored by the student in the Written Examinations will be considered as his final marks.

The 12th Standard Annual Examinations will be conducted after the Corona pandemic subsides and the examination schedule will be announced later.

News in Picture

95th Birth Anniversary of Kavignar Kannadasan

The 95th Birth Anniversary of Kavignar Kannadasan was celebrated on 24.06.2021 on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu. On the occasion, Hon'ble Ministers, MPs and MLAs paid floral tributes to his portrait placed near his statue at T.Nagar, Chennai.

Declaring success in curbing Corona infections, Hon'ble Chief Minister sounds timely warning: 'Don't let your guard down due to relaxations'

Greetings to all my beloved people! We are coming out of the Corona pandemic. The spread of Corona infections has come under control. I convey my heartfelt gratitude to all the people of the State who have followed the total lockdown rules announced by the Government for controlling the pandemic.

To all the Doctors, Nurses and frontline workers who staked their lives to save the pandemic-affected people, I convey my heartfelt gratitude. The number of people affected by the virus infection touched the figure 36,000 per day and it is now down to below 4,000.

We were able to achieve a victory of this magnitude due to four factors – total lockdown, the dedicated work of Doctors, the State's medical infrastructure and the energetic administration. According to the information available today, a large number of beds have been kept ready. There are plenty of beds available, whether with oxygen facility or for use in intensive care units.

This Government has the strength to withstand any wave. I am aware that people of Tamil Nadu also have that confidence.

I wish to state only one thing to the people of this State now. We can say we have controlled Corona but cannot say that we have achieved total eradication. So people should not be negligent. Relaxations have been announced. No one should think that there is no need, therefore, to follow any rule.

Schools and colleges have not yet been opened. Political and community events have not been permitted. Cinema theatres have not been opened and so too parks; these are the places where people congregate in large numbers.

People should understand why they have not been opened and be cautious.

Permission granted to hotels, shops, other important services, transportation by public careers, Government and private sector offices, is due to concern for the livelihood of the people.

We have announced many relaxations due to three reasons : total lockdown cripples people's livelihood, there is difficulty in getting even essential goods and the State's economy suffers diminution. These are the underlying causes for these relaxations. All the people of Tamil Nadu should realize this.

To overcome Corona, vaccination is the biggest weapon and shield. We have not yet covered the entire population of Tamil Nadu by

vaccination. What has been supplied to us by the Union Government has been administered. They too have not supplied the full quantity.

Medical experts have not yet taken a decision regarding administering vaccination to school children. Consultations are on in respect of vaccination for infants. In this way, we have to complete vaccination to all sections of people. The Government is ready to turn vaccination into a people's movement.

People should be more cautious at a time when jabs are not available to the full extent.

As for me, the only request I place before the people of Tamil Nadu is that they should impose discipline on themselves. Step out of the house only for important needs. When you do so, follow the preventive regulations.

- All those coming out of the house should wear a face mask.
- Avoid congregation.
- Form a 'Queue' while purchasing articles.
- While standing in the 'Queue', observe social distancing norm.
- Double masks can also be used while travelling by public career vehicles and in highly crowded places.
- Wash the hands often with soap and disinfectants.
- All the staff in shops should wear face mask.
- All office goers should attend to their work wearing a face mask.
- Keep hand cleaners at the entrance of shops; test temperature with the required tools.
- Don't permit more people at a time in shops.
- If infection symptoms appear, go to hospital immediately; don't attempt self-medication.

These are all very, very ordinary restrictions. By following them, we can prevent the Corona virus from spreading. These are not restrictions imposed by the Government; they are restrictions that people should follow on their own. In that respect, every individual should become a fortress against Corona.

Doctors say defying restrictions during the relaxation period will create a situation conducive for a third wave. If we follow the restrictions properly, no wave can enter.

So my appeal to people is: on the strength of the grant of relaxations don't defy rules; the rules imposed are still in operation. Observing the rules, let us win over Corona with our intelligence.

Let us defend ourselves; let us defend our Country.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Districts classified into 3 categories for implementing restrictions, relaxations

Following the Union Government's declaration of COVID-19 as a pandemic, lockdown has been in force in Tamil Nadu since 25.03.2020 under the National Disaster Management Act. The anti-COVID-19 measures have been strengthened in all Districts in the State. Based on the incidence of the infection, the Districts have been classified into 3 categories.

As the incidence of the virus has come down substantially in most of the Districts, the present lockdown in the State, which is to end on 6 a.m. on 28.06.2021, will be extended up to 6 a.m. on 05.07.2021 with several relaxations.

Already based on the virus spread, the Districts have been categorized in the following manner.

Category I (11 Districts):

Coimbatore, the Nilgiris, Tiruppur, Erode, Salem, Karur, Namakkal, Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, Nagapattinam and Mayiladuthurai.

Category II (23 Districts):

Ariyalur, Cuddalore, Dharmapuri, Dindigul, Kallakuruchi, Kanniyakumari, Krishnagiri, Madurai, Perambalur, Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram, Ranipettai, Sivagangai, Theni, Tenkasi, Tirunelveli, Tiruppatur, Tiruvannamalai, Thoothukudi, Tiruchirappalli, Villupuram, Vellore and Virudhunagar.

Category III (4 Districts):

Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram and Chengalpattu.

Taking into consideration the fall in the incidence of the infection rate in the Districts under Category I, the following relaxations are allowed apart from the existing relaxations to some shops and activities, which are permitted to function up to 7 p.m.

Tea shops will be permitted but only for parcel services between 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Shops selling electrical goods, bulbs, cables, switches, wires and hardware will be allowed to function between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Educational books and stationery, footwear shops, vessels, fancy, cosmetics, photo / video shops, tailoring, photo-copying shops will be allowed to function from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Sales and service of house-hold products like mixies, grinders and television sets are allowed from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Sale and service repair centres of vehicles and spare-part shops are allowed between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Sales of cell phones and allied products are permitted between 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Shops dealing with computer hardware, software and electronic appliances from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Road-side eateries are permitted to carry out only parcel services between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Shops selling construction materials are permitted to function from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

All essential Government Departments and Sub-Registrar offices will function with 100 per cent staff strength. Other Government offices will function with 50 per cent staff strength.

Banks and insurance companies and ATM services will be permitted with 50 per cent of their staff strength.

SEBI and its activities are allowed with 50 per cent of the staff strength.

Export companies and companies supplying inputs to them, can function with 100 per cent staff strength, with standard operating procedures. Other industries are allowed to function with 33 per cent staff strength.

Information technology and IT-related services are allowed with 20 per cent staff strength. Housing companies, non-banking financial institutions, and small finance institutions are permitted to function with 33 per cent staff strength.

All kinds of construction activities will be allowed. But construction companies are allowed to function only with 33 per cent of their staff strength.

Beauty parlours, saloons and spas are allowed to function without air-conditioning from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. but only with 50 per cent customers at a time.

Sports training complexes and their activities are allowed between 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. but in open grounds without spectators.

Schools, colleges, universities and training centres will be allowed to undertake student admission activities. Government parks and parks under the control of local bodies and sports grounds will be allowed to open between 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. for walking only.

Shops selling sweets and savouries will be allowed parcel service only between 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

E-service centres will continue to function as usual.

Institutions that distribute food through e-commerce, hotels, restaurants and bakeries are permitted to offer only parcel services from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. All other e-commerce service organizations will be allowed to function between 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. Post-production work for films is permitted.

Shooting for films and television serials is permitted in open grounds but with a ceiling of 100 participants. All the participants should be subjected to RT-PCR tests before participating in the shooting.

Maintenance activities can be carried out in cinema halls once in a week with the permission of the Tahsildars concerned.

Category II:

Some shops and activities in category II,

which are now permitted to function up to 7 p.m., are now given more relaxations.

Vessel shops, fancy, cosmetics, Photo/video, laundry and tailor shops, photo copying shops are permitted from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Shops selling cell phones and allied products are permitted to function from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Computer hardware and software shops and electronic appliances spare parts shops are allowed from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Road-side eateries are allowed for parcel service only between 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

All private establishments are allowed to function with 50 per cent staff strength. Companies involved in construction activities are allowed to work with 50 per cent staff strength.

Intra-District transport movement with standard operating procedures is allowed with 50 per cent of occupancy without air-conditioning facilities. Similarly, inter-District movement of transport is allowed with standard operating procedures and with 50 per cent occupancy, sans air-conditioning.

CATEGORY III:

In the Districts under category III, the following activities are allowed apart from the existing relaxations.

All private institutions are allowed to function with 100 per cent staff strength All textile shops are allowed to do business without air-conditioning and 50 per cent customers at a time, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

All jewellery shops are allowed to carry out business without air-conditioning and 50 per cent customers at a time, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Shopping complexes, malls are allowed to function from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. But the eateries attached to these malls and shopping complexes are permitted to offer parcel service only.

No permission for theatres and gaming centres.

All places of worship, including temples, churches and mosques are allowed to open with standard operating procedures. No permission for doing archanais, kumbhabhishekam, and festivals.

Sports complexes are allowed to function in open grounds and hold competitions, but without spectators, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.,

In Districts under Categories 2 and 3, the following additional relaxations are allowed apart from the existing relaxations.

Private security organizations and house-keeping services in offices, houses and multi-storied buildings are allowed without e-registration.

Electricians, plumbers, computer and motor technicians and self-employed people like carpenters and those who do repairs by going to houses, are permitted to work from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. without e-registration.

All Government Offices will function with 100 per cent attendance. Banks and insurance companies, as well as ATM services are

allowed with cent per cent attendance. SEBI and services notified by SEBI are permitted with 100 per cent attendance.

Other industries are allowed to work with 100 per cent staff strength. IT and IT-related service organizations are allowed to function with 50 per cent of their staff.

Housing companies (HFCs), Non-banking financial institutions (NBFCs), and micro finance institutions (MFCs) are permitted to function with 50 per cent of their staff strength.

Gyms and yoga centres are allowed to function according to their normal timings without air-conditioning and with 50 per cent of customers at a time, by complying with standard operating procedures. Museums and protected monuments under the control of the Archeological Department are open to visitors from 10 a.m. to 5p.m.

GENERAL:

Walking exercise will be allowed on all beaches from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Match factories are allowed to function with 100 per cent workers strength.

Permission for travelling to attend marriage functions:

In category 2 and 3 Districts, wedding-related travel will be allowed without e-pass/ e-registration.

Inter-District movement in category I and from the Districts in II and III to the Districts under Category I, is permitted with e-pass registration. To get e-pass, either the bride/ bridegroom or their parents may apply to the respective District Collectors online (https//eregister.tnega.org) to get the e-pass. To travel for marriage-related functions from Districts under Category I to Districts under Categories II and III, e-pass is compulsory. Only 50 persons are allowed to participate in a marriage function.

E-passes have to be obtained for emergency travel to Nilgiris District, Kodaikkanal, Yerkadu, Yelagiri and Courtallam from the respective District Collectors.

I appeal to people to avoid coming out of their houses unnecessarily and avoid gathering in large numbers in public places, to control the spread of the virus.

As directed by the national guidelines for prevention of COVID-19, wearing masks in public places, maintaining social distance, frequent washing of hands with soap or cleaning with hand sanitizer, should be strictly followed. If a person has symptoms of the disease, he/she should immediately contact the nearest medical centre and get the necessary medical advice and treatment. Those who violate the national guidelines in this regard will be monitored and violators will be heavily fined.

I earnestly appeal to the people to co-operate with the Government fully and help eradicate the virus from the State.

Hon'ble Chief Minister announces more lockdown relaxations, appeals to people to observe guidelines

Statement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin,** on extension of Lockdown in all the Districts in Tamil Nadu with certain relaxations - 02.07.2021 .

Lockdown has been in force in Tamil Nadu since 25.03.2020, under the National Disaster Management Act of the Union Government. To control the Corona virus, the Union Home Ministry announced on 29.06.2021, the extension of the lockdown up to 31.07.2021.

At present, the lockdown in the State is to end at 6 a.m. on 05.07.2021. Though the impact of the virus in the State has come down, it still requires continuous monitoring to bring it under control. Taking this into consideration, the following restrictions will continue from 05.07.2021 to 6 a.m. on 12.07.2021 in all Districts.

Inter-state movement of private and Corporation buses; international air traffic except the movement on routes permitted by the Union Home Ministry, cinema houses, all bars, swimming pools, community and political meetings in which members of the public take part, entertainment, sports and cultural activities; Schools and colleges, and zoological parks.

To prevent the spread of the virus, only 50 members are allowed in a marriage function and 20 persons in case of funeral rites.

Uniform relaxations are allowed in all the Districts in the State from 05.07.2021, taking into consideration, the fall in incidence of the virus, the livelihood of the people, to meet the necessary requirement of the people and the economy of the State. Except in virus affected areas, in other places, the existing permitted activities will be allowed. Shops which are now allowed to open till 7 p.m. will now be permitted to function till 8 p.m. Except the above prohibited activities, all the other activities will be allowed.

In addition, some more activities have been allowed with some restrictions:

Government and Business to Business exhibitions will be allowed. But the entry will

be restricted to those having invitations. The organizer of these exhibitions and owners of the sales counters should have undergone RT-PCR Tests or have been vaccinated twice.

Hotels, hostels, bakeries, lodging houses and eateries attached to the hostels will be permitted from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. with sufficient ventilation and standard operating procedures with 50 per cent customer occupancy.

Tea shops, with the standard operating procedures, will be allowed to function but with 50 per cent customer occupancy.

Clubs, gyms, sports and eateries are allowed to function by complying with COVID-19 preventive measures.

Information Technology and IT service enabled organizations are allowed to function with 50 per cent of their staff strength. Museums and archaeological sites will be allowed to function from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Hostels and lodges, guest houses are permitted to function. But 50 per cent customers are only allowed in the eateries and dormitories attached to them.

Gyms and Yoga Centres will be allowed with sufficient ventilation with 50 per cent of their customers. Tasmac shops will be allowed to function from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. All places of worship will be allowed with compliance with the standard operating procedures. Festivals and temple Kumbhabishekams are not allowed.

All textile shops and jewel shops with sufficient ventilation are allowed to function only with 50 per cent customer occupancy.

Shopping complexes and Malls are permitted to function between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. Eateries attached to the shopping complexes will be allowed to function with 50 per cent of occupancy. No permission for theatres and gaming facilities attached to these complexes.

Intra-state, inter Districts public transport system is allowed without air-conditioning with 50 per cent passenger occupancy.

Research scholars, SRF/JRF, M.Phil, and Ph.D students will be allowed to undertake their project works at colleges and universities to which they are attached.

Anna Management Training Institute, Government training institutes/Centres such as SIRD, will be allowed to train 50 per cent of their capacity with sufficient ventilation.

Entertainment and Amusement Parks will be allowed to function with 50 per cent customers at a time. The organizers should allow the customers only with face masks and they should be sanitized before entry into the parks. In these parks, only outdoor games are allowed. But water-related sports will not be allowed. E-pass and E-Registration to travel between Districts, which were hitherto compulsory, have been scrapped.

GENERAL :

All permitted shops and public places, where people are likely to gather in large numbers, will strictly follow the standard operating procedures.

At the entrance of the shops, hand sanitizers with dispensers should be kept for the use of customers. Thermal screening of each customer is compulsory. Administration should ensure that the workers and customers wear masks.

In air-conditioned shops and halls, doors and windows should be sufficiently opened for free air circulation and the shops should ensure that social distance is maintained inside the shops by not allowing too many customers at a time.

At the entrance of shops, there should be signage that the customers maintain social distance while standing in queue.

GUIDELINES FOR CONTROLLING THE DISEASE VIRUS:

Identifying the virus-affected people and those who are in contact with them, giving treatment to them, administration of vaccination and following anti-Corona measures should be strictly followed (Test-Track-Treat-Vaccination-COVID-19 appropriate behaviour).

To control the spread of the Corona virus, in areas where the disease-affected people reside, disease control measures should be taken at the micro level with standard operating procedure. This should be done by the respective District Collectors and the local bodies.

The following disease control measures should be undertaken in the disease-affected areas.

In the disease-affected areas, only essential activities are allowed. In these areas emergency medical services and distribution of essential articles are only allowed and no other activities are permitted. In these areas, groups should be formed to control the disease and door-to-door monitoring should be conducted.

The Departments concerned should see to it that only the permitted activities are allowed in these areas with standard operating procedures.

To control the spread of the virus, I appeal to people to avoid coming out of their houses unnecessarily and also avoid gathering in large numbers in public places.

As directed by the national guidelines for prevention of COVID-19, wearing masks in public places, maintaining social distance, frequent washing of hands with soap or cleaning with hand sanitizer, should be strictly followed. If anyone has symptoms of the disease, he should immediately contact the nearest medical centre and get the necessary medical advice and treatment. Those who violate the national guidelines for COVID-19 will be monitored and violators will be heavily fined.

I earnestly appeal to people to co-operate with the Government fully and help eradicate the virus from the State.

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates vaccination drive for two lakh construction workers, hamper distribution for 1,29,444 migrant workers

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin inaugurated at the Arts College for Men at Nandanam on 25.06.2021, a vaccination drive for two lakh construction workers in the first phase and distribution of gift hampers containing food articles to 1,29,444 migrant workers, rendered jobless due to lockdown and not covered by the public distribution system.

With the lofty aim of protecting construction workers from the Corona pandemic, orders were issued for the vaccination of 13,41,494 workers registered with the Tamil Nadu Construction Workers Welfare Board. In the first phase, two lakh workers are to be vaccinated through a special camp.

The gift hampers are distributed at a cost of Rs.6.66 crore; each hamper contains 15 kg of rice, one kg of toor dhal and one kg of cooking oil.

Hon'ble Chief Minister orders Rs.4,000 relief to 13,553 Sri Lankan refugees living outside camps

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.M.K.Stalin inaugurated on 19.06.2021, the distribution of Rs.4,000 as Corona relief to Sri Lankan refugees living outside refugee camps.

In view of the lockdown and various restrictions imposed in the State to arrest the spread of the Corona virus, the life support of the people has been affected to a great extent. To help people affected by the lockdown, the State Government has been giving Rs. 4,000 to all rice card holders in the State and to refugees accommodated in the refugee camps in the State.

Sri Lankan Tamils have been living in various parts of the State outside the refugee camps and are involved in various trades, including small trades and also work for daily wages. Due to COVID-19, the livelihoods of these people have been badly affected. With a view to helping them, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin, as a special case, issued a G.O. allotting Rs.5.42 crore to 13,553 refugees living outside the camps at the rate of Rs.4,000 per refugee.

Accordingly, the Hon'ble Chief Minister at the Secretariat inaugurated the distribution of the relief amount and as a token, handed over the relief amount to 5 refugees. ■

Hon'ble Chief Minister inspects special Corona centre for children

The Government of Tamil Nadu, under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin, has been taking various measures on a war footing to control the spread of Corona virus in the State. Due to these measures, the spread of the virus has come down to a great extent and is under control now.

At this juncture, as part of meeting the challenge of COVID-19 in its third wave, the Hon'ble Chief Minister inspected the 250-bed Zero Delay Children's Corona Treatment Centre at the Institute of Child Health and Hospital for Children, Egmore, on 20.06.2021, and enquired about the treatment given to the children there and the facilities available at the Institute.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also visited the ICU wards, where oxygen and other facilities have been provided for treatment of children.

Hon'ble Chief Minister writes to Hon'ble Union Ministers against move to amend Cinematograph Act 1952

D.O. Letter dated 06.07.2021 by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin**, addressed to the Hon'ble Ministers of Law and Justice, Communications, Electronics and Information Technology requesting withdrawal of the proposed amendment to Cinematograph Act, 1952.

I am writing this with reference to the apprehensions brought to my notice by the Members of the film industry in Tamil Nadu on the proposed Draft Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2021.

The draft bill has given rise to serious apprehensions not only in the minds of the film fraternity and film industry but also among all well-meaning sections of the society that cherish freedom of expression. As you are aware, a vibrant democracy must provide adequate space for creative thinking and artistic freedom. However, the proposed amendment to the Cinematograph Act seeks to restrict it by restoring the revisionary powers of the Union Government that was struck down by the Supreme Court two decades ago.

The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) accords certification to the films if they meet all the criteria mentioned in the section 5(a) of the Cinematograph Act. The Act also provides for rejection of certification for a film on certain prescribed valid grounds. Moreover, adequate provisions for exercising control over the film making is available in the form of guidelines that have been provided under section 5(b) of the Act. Given all these, it is considered as excessive to add more Laws and Acts to throttle the freedom of a creative form in the 21st Century.

Following the prescribed guidelines and procedures, if a film is certified for public viewing by the CBFC, it falls within the domain of the State Governments first and hence, it must be left to the States as the Law and order is a State subject. But now, the Union Government, by the proposed Act tries to go against the spirit of co-operative federalism and transgress the powers of the State Governments and its own Central Board of Film Certification. Incidentally, as a prelude to this amendment,

the Film Certification Appellate Board which was functioning as an appellate body against the CBFC was dismantled.

I wish to reiterate that the Draft amendment restoring the "revisional power" to the Centre after it is certified by the CBFC is a misuse of "reasonable restriction" clause under Article 19(2) of the Constitution of India and this Draft amendment itself is against the spirit of promoting rightful thinking in Civil Society. Curbing the creative thinking of the Film Fraternity and imposing conditions on them on how films are to be made are totally unjustified and in fact, it is quite opposite to the very ideals of our Constitution. Taking away the right to freedom of thought will only weaken our democracy- which has to be vibrant always irrespective of the parties in power.

Further, I wish to point out that there are certain provisions which have practical difficulties in implementation like the age-wise grouping of the certification under three categories and certain amendments that makes the film making a very risky and uncertain industry like the provision enabling the Union Government direct the Chairman of the CBFC to re-examine a film after certification.

Considering the above points and genuine concerns raised by the film fraternity and various sections of the society across India, I urge you to withdraw the proposed Amendment to Cinematograph Act, 1952 and also allow for functional autonomy of the CBFC, so that we remain as a progressive Nation, and where creative thinking, that includes art, culture and film making, blossom without fear or favour. ■

News in Picture

The functioning of the Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department was reviewed at a meeting held at the Secretariat on 30.06.2021, under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin**. Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration Thiru.K.N.Nehru, Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Additional Chief Secretary, Municipal Administration and Water Supply, Commissioner of the Greater Chennai Corporation and High Government officials participated.

Chennai journalists get the jab at special vaccination camp held by Government

Newspaper and media journalists are doing an excellent job as frontline workers in taking to the people speedily, factual information about the steps being taken by the Government headed by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin for containing the Corona virus infection; they are also creating awareness about the infection.

The Departments of Information and Health and Family Welfare and the Greater Chennai Corporation conducted jointly on 06.07.2021, a special vaccination camp at Kalaivanar Arangam to enable the journalists who tirelessly function round-the-clock, to carry out their work in a safe manner.

The camp was inaugurated in the presence of Hon'ble Minister for Medical and Family Welfare Thiru. Ma. Subramanian and Hon'ble Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Thiru. P.K. Sekar Babu. Hon'ble Minister for Information and Publicity Thiru. M.P. Saminathan presided.

On instructions from the Hon'ble Chief Minister, all the journalists working in newspapers, magazines and media, their family members and newspaper associations were brought together for the first time. Five hundred and forty persons were inoculated. Several senior journalists applauded this excellent initiative. They also requested the Hon'ble Minister for Information and Publicity to hold such special camps at the District level.

Hon'ble Ministers also distributed to the vaccinated journalists hampers containing indigenous medicines like kabasura kudineer and herbal tea powder as well as Aadaathodai Manappagu (syrup), Amukkara Choornam tablets and Thalisathi vadagam made by Tamil Nadu Medicinal Plant Farms and Herbal Medicine Corporation and given by the Indian Medicine and Homeopathy Department.

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates 'Minnagam' with dedicated mobile number

Service call centre to address power supply grievances of consumers round-the-clock

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin inaugurated a new Service Call Centre at the headquarters of Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO) on 20.06.2021, for addressing grievances of power consumers. He also introduced a dedicated helpline bearing the number 9498794987, to enable consumers to contact the service call centre round-the-clock.

Named 'Minnagam', the service call centre will record complaints/ suggestions regarding power consumption bill, status of new connections, power fluctuations, defective electricity boxes, low-hanging power cables, unsafe transformers, power breakdown and high and low voltage power supply.

'Minnagam' will have 195 employees working three shifts at the rate of 65 for each shift. The complaints/suggestions will be recorded in computers and reach the offices concerned of the Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers, Assistant Executive Engineers and Assistant Engineers, automatically through Whatsapp, through CC-MAC software technology. To act on the complaints, three persons on the basis of one person per shift have been appointed (totally 132), at the 44 Superintending Engineer offices in the Districts.

An SMS will be sent to the mobile number of the consumer concerned after the complaint is registered. Once the complaint is rectified, another SMS will be sent to the consumer. A social media cell has also been set up to monitor the complaints of consumers on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Hon'ble Chief Minister averts closure of Cologne varsity's Tamil Department with Rs. 1.25 crore grant

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M. K. Stalin announced the assistance of Rs.1.25 crore assistance to the Tamil Department of University of Cologne, Germany, for its continued functioning without any slackening of activities.

The Tamil Department of the University of Cologne, Germany is playing an important role in the development of the Tamil language. An institute for research in Indology and literary Tamil was started in this University in 1963 and has been functioning since then. Because of the financial constraints for the Tamil Department in the year 2014, the University Administration announced its decision to close it down after the retirement of the incumbent Tamil professor, Thiru. Ullrich Nicholas, in September 2020. Timely mobilization and handing over of 50 per cent of the funds needed for the functioning of the Tamil Department by Indian residents in the United States of America, postponed the decision to close it down to June 2022.

In 2019, the then Government of Tamil Nadu announced a donation of Rs.1.25 crore out of the funds needed for the Tamil Department of Cologne University. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin, who was then Leader of the Opposition stressed on its immediate payment and assistance to that University.

However, on learning that the amount announced by Government of Tamil Nadu had not been released, the Hon'ble Chief Minister issued orders on 07.07.2021 for immediate disbursal of Rs.1.25 crore to the Tamil Department of the University of Cologne for its continued functioning without any slackening of activities.

This Government which functions in the footsteps of Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar, will provide financial assistance to schemes like these, help the Tamil Department of the University of Cologne to complete in two years its 60th year of service and will always support matters like spreading the Tamil language, culture and civilization all over the world.

Hon'ble Chief Minister opens CEmONC Centre at Tiruvarur, visits Kalaignar's birthplace

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin declared open a Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care Centre (CEmONC) on 07.07.2021 at the Government Tiruvarur Medical College Hospital campus.

From there, he went to the house at Thirukkuvalai where Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar was born, garlanded Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar's portrait there and paid his respects. He also saw the photographs displayed there.

In the visitor's book kept at the house, Hon'ble Chief Minister wrote the following words and signed: "I have assumed the responsibility of the office of Chief Minister through my tireless work along with Thalaivar Kalaignar's dearer than life 'udanpirappugal' (siblings). Thalaivar Kalaignar used to say often that a post is a responsibility; we should serve the people with responsibility. Keeping this in mind, my journey will continue, holding the post of Chief Minister not as a position but as a responsibility. This is my pledge taken at his birth place." ■

Hon’ble Chief Minister motivates Sportspersons setting out to participate in the Tokyo Olympics: gold medalists to be given Rs. 3 crore

Speech of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin,** at the inauguration of a special Corona vaccination camp at Nehru indoor stadium on 26.06.2021 *(English Translation)*.

I welcome all those who have come to the special vaccination camp for Sports Persons and offer my respects to them.

Hon’ble Minister for Environment, Climate Change, Youth Welfare and Sports Development Thiru. Siva V. Meyyanathan, Hon’ble Minister for Medical and Family Welfare Thiru. Ma. Subramanian, Hon’ble Minister for Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments Thiru. P.K. Sekar Babu, Thiru. Paranthaman, Thiru. Udhayanidhi Stalin and Dr. Ezhilan, MLAs, Thiru. Apurva Varma, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Youth Welfare and Sports Development, Dr. Radhakrishnan, Principal Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Thiru. N. Ramachandran, President, Tamil Nadu Olympic Association, Government Officers, Administrative personnel of Sports Department, Thiru. Aadhav Arjuna, Executive Committee Member of Tamil Nadu Olympic Association, sportspersons, TV and print media friends, my affectionate greetings to all of you.

Once again I convey my respects to all those who have graced this event of holding a special COVID vaccination camp for Sportspersons, on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu and distribution of special cash incentive to participants of Olympic competitions.

I feel proud and overjoyed to participate in this event.

The most important factor in sports competitions is team spirit. A resounding victory is possible only when Sportspersons, though individually proficient, act as a team on the field. I see that team spirit in the organizers of this event. They have joined together to arrange this event in an excellent manner

The Departments of Youth Welfare and Sports Development and Health and Family Welfare of Tamil Nadu and the Tamil Nadu Olympic Association are jointly conducting this event with team spirit. This function itself is being conducted like sports events, so as to inspire both body and mind.

It is said, life is a game. There are people in our Country who treat politics as a game. But the sports sphere is not just play. If it is considered mere play, the results will turn out to be paltry. As such, the present Government is firm in taking sports seriously and turning it into a domain of excellence.

In Tamil Sportspersons are not just called players, they are called sports champions (vilayattu veerargal, vilaiyattu veeraanganaigal). These sports warriors make the Country proud and the next generation strong.

If one is serious about sports competitions, not only must one's physique be sound but also one's will power must be strong. Whatever be the hurdles in reaching the goal, one should know how to take them as challenges and overcome them. One must undergo training for that.

In Cricket, if a player like Dhoni hits a six, all the spectators in the ground feel happy as if they have hit a sixer. Likewise, in football, if Ronaldo scores a goal, all the people in the stadium get the feeling that they have netted the ball. The same feeling is felt by the fans and people who see the games on TV. It is from such sports lovers that Tendulkars, Dhonis, P.T. Ushas and Malleswaris flower.

Similarly, you who have assembled here are capable of enthusing an entire generation of people. We cannot forget that. Your welfare will therefore be taken care of. I give the assurance

to you that the Government will certainly stand by you always.

The Government of Tamil Nadu encourages Sportspersons by providing them the needed high-level training, travel expenses, cash incentives as well as social welfare and mental wellness programmes so that they can bring honour to Tamil Nadu and the Indian sub-continent by winning in International competitions and the Olympic games.

Sportspersons belonging to our State are employed in different Government Departments under the quota for them.

Every Sportsperson has three very important qualities –agile action, daring effort and strong physique. The Government too is intent in evincing these qualities.

During times of disaster, it acts quickly, makes daring efforts and keeps the State of Tamil Nadu strong. In such a strong Tamil Nadu, you, belonging to the sports sector, are also a limb.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing a special cash incentive scheme for our Sportspersons who excel at the Global and National Levels. Through this scheme, up to Rs.10 lakh is provided per year to the Sportsperson, male or female, for purchase of sports implements and travel expenses for participation in competitions.

For winning competitions at the International level, up to Rs.25 lakh per annum is given for getting high- level training; financial assistance is given towards travel expenses for participation in International sports events.

With great joy, I wish to state that 7 Sportspersons from Tamil Nadu are participating in the Olympic competitions to be held at the Japanese capital Tokyo from 23.07.2021 to 08.08.2021. They are Selvi Nethra Kumanan, Thiru. Varun A. Thakkar and Thiru. K.C. Ganapathy (Sailing), Thiru. G. Sathiyan and A. Sharath Kamal (Table Tennis), Selvi C.A. Bhavani (Fencing) and Thiru. T. Mariappan (High Jump) in Paralympics competitions for the differently-abled.

The Government has already handed over to Selvi C.A. Bhavani, the special cash incentive

of Rs.5 lakh. I am happy to inform you that for the rest of the 6 Sportspersons the special incentive of Rs.5 lakh (total Rs.30 lakh) will be handed over.

A Government must provide world class facilities for physical exercise and modern infrastructure for scientific training of Sportspersons and I assure you that this Government will certainly do so.

To create champion Sportspersons, the skills of our children should be identified at a young age. This Government is firm on identifying such children with proficiency in sports before they reach the age of 12 and training them at global standards. As Arjun has stated here, the D.M.K. election manifesto for the 2021 Assembly Elections has mentioned, keeping this in mind, that Tamil Nadu will be divided into 4 sectors and Olympic academies will be opened to help Sportspersons win Olympic competitions. For those capable of setting up records in all events, all arrangements will be made inclusive of special training, cash incentive and travel expenses.

A huge sports stadium will be set up at Chennai and top-level training will be given in all types of competitions. We have given many assurances. All of them will certainly be implemented. By taking initiatives including the setting up of Olympic Academy, it is possible to improve Tamil Nadu's rank at the National level and India's rank at the International level. If we continue our journey in that direction, an ambience will certainly evolve when we will overtake Countries including China and the US, in the number of medal winners.

During my school and college days, I too have participated in games. I can very well assess the needs of Sportspersons who participate in events. I cannot forget my participation with the best cricket players in exhibition matches when I was the Mayor of Chennai and Deputy Chief Minister. So, I am always ready to help you in your development and victory, not merely as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu but as one among you.

Since, the Corona pandemic should not be a hurdle to the achievements of Sportspersons and to their continued development, this special vaccination camp has been inaugurated, keeping all Sportspersons in mind. It has been announced here that arrangements have been made to vaccinate differently-abled Sportspersons at their own residence.

A team can win a game by accumulating runs or by preventing the other side from getting runs. A team can win by scoring goals or by preventing the other side from scoring goals. Like the preventive strategy employed in games, this vaccination camp is held here during this Corona period. I affectionately request all Sportspersons, male and female, to make use of this special camp, maintain their health and bring laurels to Tamil Nadu in the field.

The Government has a duty to keep in high spirits, our Sportspersons who are about to play in the global arena. Hence, I am extremely happy to inform you on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu, that gold medalists will be given Rs.3 crore each, silver medalists Rs.2 crore and bronze medalists Rs.one crore each.

Sports warriors of Tamil Nadu! Go forth, and come back as world champions!

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Hon'ble Chief Minister hands over cheque for Rs.5 lakh for further training of Olympic fencer

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin handed over a cheque for Rs.5 lakh on 20.06.2021, to fencer Selvi Bhavani Devi, who has been selected for the Tokyo Olympic games.

Selvi Bhavani Devi, hailing from Tamil Nadu, after getting trained in the traditional art of fencing, participated in various tournaments at the International level and won many medals. Taking into consideration her passion for the sport as well as her perseverance, she was appointed as 'Sports Officer' in the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO).

Now, Selvi Bhavani Devi has been selected for the Tokyo Olympics. She is the first woman from India to be selected for Fencing competition in the Olympic Games. The Government of Tamil Nadu is providing necessary infrastructure and assistance to Selvi Bhavani Devi for her participation in the Olympics. As she needed another Rs.5 lakh to undergo further training in Italy, she appealed to the Government of Tamil Nadu to sanction the amount as it would help her hone her skills.

Hon'ble Chief Minister after considering her request favourably, sanctioned Rs.5 lakh and handed over a cheque for Rs.5 lakh at a function held at the TANGEDCO headquarters on 20.06.2021.

Hon'ble Chief Minister sanctions Rs.100 crore for liquid oxygen and steps against third wave

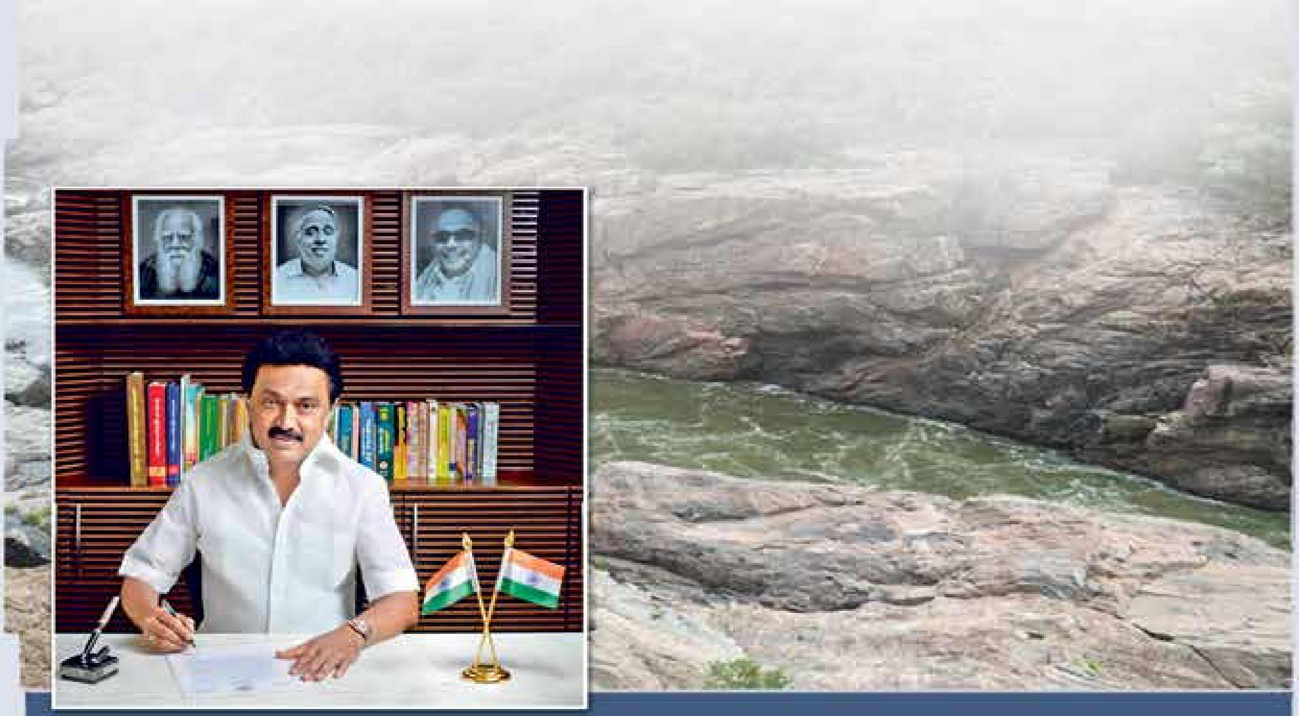
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin has sanctioned Rs. 100 crore from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund towards the purchase of liquid oxygen required for the Government Hospitals and for precautionary steps to prevent a possible third wave of the Corona Pandemic.

In deference to the appeal made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, people in the State are donating liberally to the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund and till 29.06.2021, Rs.353 crore had been received as donation to the Fund.

As assured by the Hon'ble Chief Minister that the donations received to the Relief Fund would be utilized only for Corona relief works, the fund has been utilized for the purchase of Remdesivir for the Government Hospitals and to purchase containers to bring liquid oxygen from other States by rail and to meet the travel expense for bringing liquid oxygen. In the first phase, Rs.50 crore was allotted. In the second phase, another Rs. 50 crore was allotted for purchase of RT-PCR kits as the State required more than 1.5 lakh kits per day to conduct Corona virus tests.

Subsequently, Rs. 41.40 crore was allotted for purchase of oxygen cylinders, oxygen derivatives and other medical equipment from Singapore and other Countries, through SIPCOT. For purchase of life-saving drugs, including Amphotericin for treatment of Mucormycosis, another Rs.25 crore has been allotted from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund.

Now, another Rs.100 crore has been sanctioned from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund by Hon'ble Chief Minister for purchase of liquid oxygen for the Government Hospitals for treatment of COVID-19 patients and for precautionary measures against a possible third wave of the Corona pandemic.



Hon’ble Chief Minister strongly urges Karnataka counterpart: ‘Don’t pursue Mekedatu project’

D.O. Letter, Dated 04.07.2021 by the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin,** addressed to the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Karnataka **Thiru. B. S. Yediyurappa,** requesting him not to pursue the Mekedatu project.

I thank you for the congratulatory message and good wishes conveyed in your letter and also appreciate your intent to strengthen the relationship between our States.

On the issue of the Mekedatu balancing reservoir, I wish to state the comparison of that project intended for storing of 67.16 TMC water, with the two hydro power projects of Tamil Nadu would not be correct. Let me clarify at the very outset that there is no consumption of water in these two hydro power projects, with the available water being just re-circulated by pumping to meet peak power demand. Since, there is no additional usage created, both the projects do not affect the availability of water for irrigation or drinking usage in Tamil Nadu. Hence, I wish to again emphasize that the comparison of such qualitatively different projects is not appropriate.

In the Final Order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, which has been modified by the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India, the three components contributing to the annual quantum of water to be delivered by the State of Karnataka at the inter-State contact point have been clearly identified. The proposed Mekedatu project would impound and divert the first component of uncontrolled flows due to Tamil Nadu, i.e., the flows coming in river Cauvery from the uncontrolled catchment of Kabini sub-basin downstream of Kabini reservoir, the catchment of mainstream

of Cauvery river below Krishnarajasahara, uncontrolled flows from Simsha, Arkavathy and Suvernavathy sub-basins and various other small streams. Therefore, the view that the implementation of Mekedatu project would not affect the interests of Tamil Nadu's farming community cannot be agreed to by us.

While the drawl of water from the river for drinking water usage in Bengaluru Metropolitan City has been permitted by the Hon'ble Court, citing that as the reason for constructing such a major reservoir at Mekedatu, which is too far away from Bengaluru Metropolitan area does not sound valid. Further, when Karnataka already has adequate infrastructure for drawing drinking water to meet the demand of Bengaluru Metropolitan area even now, the justification of the need for a reservoir with a storage capacity of 67.16 TMC to utilize 4.75 TMC as drinking water is not at all acceptable. This would definitely jeopardize the availability of water to Tamil Nadu.

Now, that the share of Tamil Nadu has been fixed by the Hon'ble Court, the optimal utilization of our share hinges only on efficient water use. But unfortunately, the efficiency of irrigation in Cauvery system in Tamil Nadu could not be improved much since litigation was on for long. Many old structures need modernization and improvements to increase the water use efficiency. Unless these works are carried out, it would be impossible for us to meet the water demand at the rate of supply stipulated in the order of the Hon'ble Court.

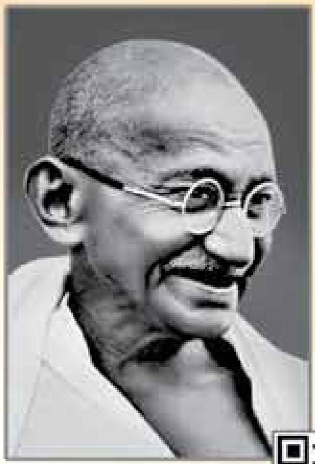
I request you to consider the above facts and the sensitivity of these issues and strongly urge you not to pursue the Mekedatu project.

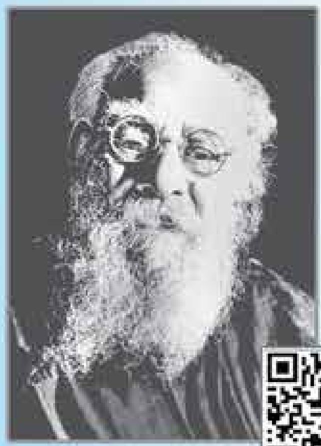
I wish to convey my good wishes to the people of the State of Karnataka and earnestly hope that good co-operation and relationship would prevail between the two States.

News in Picture

A Cabinet meeting was held at the Secretariat under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** on 24.06.2021.

Know things through the Internet





Scan the Q.R Code and get the official photograph of leaders

News in Pictures

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** visited the memorial of Muthamizh Arignar Dr.Kalaignar on 24.06.2021 and paid his respects to the late leader.

Birth Anniversary of Rettaimalai Seenivasan

On the occasion of the Birth Anniversary of Rettaimalai Seenivasan on 07.07.2021, the Hon'ble Minister for Information and Publicity Thiru. M.P.Swaminathan, Hon'ble Minister for Adi Dravidar Welfare Tmt. N. Kayalvizhi Selvaraj, MPs and MLAs, Thiru.Mahesan Kasirajan I.A.S., Secretary to the Tamil Development and Information Department, and family members of Rettaimalai Seenivasan paid floral tributes to the statue of the late leader at his Manimandapam in the Gandhi Mandapam premises, Chennai.

When Kingmaker Kamarajar became India's Man of Destiny

By V. K. Narasimhan

Kamarajar was touring Madras on the fateful morning of May 27,1964, when the news was conveyed to him that Pandit Nehru had taken ill and his condition was causing anxiety. He took the earliest plane for Delhi from Madras. Atulya Ghosh, who happened to be at Bangalore that day on his way from Ootacamund, got the same disturbing news from Nijalingappa and both of them joined Kamarajar on the flight to Delhi.

Within a few minutes of leaving Madras, the three leaders received the news in the plane that Nehru had passed away at 2 p.m. The suddenness of the great national tragedy stunned all of them into silence.

On getting off from the plane at Palam, Kamarajar was informed that Nanda had been sworn-in as Prime Minister. He was a little upset about this, but was relieved to learn from G.Rajagopalan that Nanda's appointment was only as the head of a caretaker Government and that a new leader will have to be elected by the Party.

The three leaders went straight to the Prime Minister's residence where enormous crowds were gathered to pay their last homage to the Nation's leader.

Talk about the succession had already started, but Kamarajar strictly forbade any mention of the subject till the funeral was over.

By the morning of the 28th most of the leaders who had been away from the Country as well as all the Chief Ministers and State Congress Chiefs and legislators had arrived in the capital. To everyone who met him, Kamarajar's only comment was that the Congress and the nation should conduct itself with dignity and unity.

The passing of Nehru marked the end of an era. For seventeen years he had been more or less the unquestioned leader of the Congress and the Government and he embodied the image of India to the outside world. There was, however, the Number One question about India: What will happen after Nehru? Who will succeed him? Will the succession be smooth and democratic or will the edifice built up by Nehru crack up immediately after his demise owing to the struggle for power and the upsurge of divisive forces?

In the six days between the passing of Nehru and the election of Lal Bahadur as Leader, the answer to this question came in a manner that astonished the world. And the man who was primarily responsible for finding the answer was Kamarajar. He had become, to an extent he could not have suspected, India's Man of Destiny.

Almost the first thing he did after returning from Nehru's funeral was to meet President Radhakrishnan. The President, it must be mentioned, had ensured the constitutional continuity of the Government by the quick action he took to induct Nanda as Prime Minister

within two hours of Nehru's end. Far from this being improper or unconstitutional, this was the only right thing to do in the circumstances. Nanda was the senior-most member of the Nehru Government and his appointment as Prime Minister was recommended by the Emergency Committee of the Cabinet, which included Lal Bahadur and T.T Krishnamachari.

The President's advice to Kamarajar was that the Party should elect a new leader as early as possible so that a regular Ministry could be installed in the place of the caretaker Government.

From then on Kamarajar became the central figure in an existing drama, which concluded with the historic meeting in the Central Hall of Parliament on June 2 at which Lal Bahadur was unanimously elected leader of the Congress Party (and went on to become the Prime Minister of India).

(Excerpted from 'Kamaraj: A Study'; Published by Manaktalas, Bombay, 1967)

116th Birth Anniversary of Silambu Selvar Ma.Po.Sivagnanam

News in Picture

On behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu , the 116th Birth Anniversary of Silambu Selvar Ma.Po.Sivagnanam was celebrated on 26.06.2021. Hon'ble Minister for Information and Publicity Thiru. M.P.Swaminathan, Hon'ble Minister for Medical and Family Welfare Thiru. Ma.Subramanian and other High Government officials paid floral tributes to the portrait of the leader placed near his statue at T.Nagar, Chennai.

Hon'ble Chief Minister announces Rs.61.09 crore package for Kuruvai with aim of exceeding target

Announcement of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** on 17.06.2021 *(English Translation).*

After releasing water from Mettur Dam on 12.06.2021, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin has announced and directed implementation of a Rs.61.09 crore Kuruvai paddy cultivation package scheme for distribution of inputs and agriculture equipment to farmers at subsidized rates, with the aim that delta District farmers should get a high yield in Kuruvai paddy cultivation.

This scheme will be implemented in the entire area of the Districts of Thanjavur, Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai and Tiruvarur and in some parts of the Districts of Cuddalore, Ariyalur and Tiruchirappalli.

On the directions of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, after consultations with representatives of many agriculture associations on dredging canals as a special measure in the Cauvery delta Districts, the granary of Tamil Nadu, consequent on releasing water from the Mettur dam, 647 de-silting works to a distance of 4,061.44 km are being undertaken at a cost of Rs.65.11 crore.

After reviewing on 11.06.2021, the restoration works being carried out at Grand Anaicut, Tiruchirappalli, at a cost of Rs.1,036 crore, the Hon'ble Chief Minister opened the Mettur Dam on 12.06.2021 for Kuruvai paddy cultivation. Water was released from the Grand Anaicut for delta irrigation on 16.06.2021.

As on 16.06.2021, the storage in Mettur dam was 94.26 ft. (57.656 tmc ft. of water). The Hon'ble Chief Minister wrote a letter to the Hon'ble Water Resources Minister of the Central Government, seeking a direction to the Cauvery Water Management Authority to release the appropriate quantum of water in the Cauvery every month continuously as per the orders of the Supreme Court. On that basis, a meeting of the Authority is to take place on 22.06.2021.

Usually, Kuruvai cultivation would be taken up in Cauvery delta Districts in 3.2 lakh acres. In the current season, it has been planned to take up cultivation in 3.5 lakh acres. The Agriculture

Department is taking steps to have enough stock of inputs like short-term paddy crop seeds, chemical fertilizers, bio-fertilizers and nutrients and paddy seedling transplantation machines for expediting the work.

Due to such advance planning by the Government of Tamil Nadu, Kuruvai cultivation has been taken up in 1,69,300 acres till 14.06.2021. Raising of nurseries as well as transplantation of seedlings is also continuing.

Of the Rs.61.09 crore package, Rs.50 crore will be set apart for distribution of inputs to farmers at subsidized rates, like 2,870 metric tonnes of certified paddy seeds, chemical fertilizer for 1,90,000 acres (full subsidy) and green manure seeds for 24,000 acres and Rs.11.09 crore towards agriculture machinery at subsidized rates and in setting up farm ponds for conserving water and using them for cultivation. The scheme will benefit 2,07,259 farmers.

As a result of the opening of the Mettur Dam on June 12 and the implementation of the Rs.61.09 crore special package scheme, it is expected that Kuruvai cultivation will exceed the target of 3.50 lakh acres this year. ■

News in Picture

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin**, at the Secretariat on 08.07.2021 chaired a meeting of the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department and reviewed the progress of various welfare schemes of the Department. Hon'ble Minister for Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Tmt. N.Kayalvizhi Selvaraj, Chief Secretary to Government, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Principal Secretary of the Adi Dravidar Welfare Department and High Government officials participated in the meeting.

Construction Workers Welfare Board reconstituted

Announcement by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin** for the reconstitution of Tamil Nadu Construction Workers Welfare Board.

Tamil Nadu is at the forefront in the whole of India in safeguarding the interests of workers. The Manual Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Work) Act was passed in 1982 to provide social security to workers in the unorganized sector. The Tamil Nadu Construction Workers Welfare Board was set up in 1994. As the Board had not been re-organized in the last 5 years, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin issued orders for its re-constitution.

The fee for registration and renewal for construction workers was totally abolished on 01.09.2006 by the then Chief Minister Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar paving the way for all workers to avail themselves of the Government's welfare schemes. The then Chief Minister Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar also created offices for the Assistant Commissioner of Labour (Social Security Scheme) from 01.11.2008 in all Districts so that all workers in the un-organized sector including construction workers could easily contact the District office concerned for getting the welfare assistance.

There are 13,41,494 registered construction workers in the Tamil Nadu Construction Workers Welfare Board and enjoy the benefits. Though the term of non-officials expired on 18.02.2016, the Board had not been re-organized for the last 5 years. This Government that functions in the footsteps of Muthamizh Arignar Kalaignar, in the short span of its rule has taken steps to reorganize the Board with employers and labour representatives from all sectors, in the interests of construction workers. Accordingly, the Board has been recast as follows:

Thiru. Pon Kumar will be the President of the Board. Members will be: Government Representatives - Additional Chief Secretaries of the Departments of Municipal Administration and Water Supply, Finance and PWD, Principal Secretaries of the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Highways and Minor Ports, Labour Commissioner, Director, Industrial Safety and Directorate of Health and the Regional Labour Commissioner of the Union Government;

Representatives of Employers - Along with Chief engineers of Tamil Nadu Housing Board, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, Highways and Public works Departments, Director, Municipal Administration Department Thiru. Padam Dugar, President of the Chennai Unit of CREDAI, Thiru. Sivakumar, State President of Builders Association of India Thiru. L. Santha Kumar, Chairman, Southern Centre, Builders Association of India Thiru. Shajahan Sait, Managing Partner, M.K.M.S. Builders;

Representatives of Manual Workers - Members of 'Thozhilalar Munnetra Sangam' in the Districts of Dharmapuri, Namakkal and Cuddalore, Deputy General Secretary, All India Trade Union Congress, Executive Member of CITU, State Secretary of Marumalarchi Thozhilalar Munnani, State President of All India Unorganized Workers Congress, Member of INTUC, and organizer, Thozhilalar Viduthalai Munnani Maanila Peravai.

Hon'ble Chief Minister stresses on prevention of disasters

The first meeting this year of the Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Authority took place at the Secretariat on 05.07.2021. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin presided.

Speaking at the meeting, the Hon'ble Chief Minister emphasized that it was the aim of the Government to transform Tamil Nadu into a State that tackles all kinds of disasters effectively by drastically reducing the loss of life, property and the damages to infrastructure. He urged officials of all Departments at the State and District levels to implement this aim by working in co-ordination.

The Chief Minister pointed out that, of late, natural disasters don't occur naturally; humanity also should take responsibility for them. "The climate is more erratic now. We have to understand it and act accordingly. Disaster prevention is not merely protecting the people during the times of disaster. We have to create a situation to prevent their occurrence," he said.

Quoting from the Governor's Address that a Greater Chennai flood management committee would be set up to avert flooding of the City, the Hon'ble Chief Minister suggested framing of a permanent scheme for removal of encroachments and strengthening the banks of water bodies. As Cuddalore too was a flood prone District, he said, disaster prevention steps should be contemplated in advance and acted upon for finding a permanent solution.

The urban poor and marginalized people and farmers in rural areas are the most affected during natural disasters, the Hon'ble Chief Minister pointed out and said, "The Government's top priority should be to protect them from damages, compensate their losses and pave the way for their rehabilitation".

Precautionary steps and measures of mitigation to reduce the threat of disasters and

damages should be undertaken with people's participation, he said, and added the capacity of people in vulnerable areas to face disasters should be enhanced and disaster management activities should be expanded to make it a people's movement.

Service organizations and individuals who come forward on their own to engage themselves in rescue operations during disasters should be given relevant training through Government Departments; to encourage them, the Disaster Management Authority should frame a good scheme and implement it, he said.

Urging the officials to take appropriate steps for reaching disaster warnings to all the people concerned, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said the disaster warning system should be upgraded so that disaster warnings including those of storms and floods reach fishermen in time.

He said, the safety of waterways and uninterrupted power supply in all hospitals should be ensured during times of disaster.

As the Chairman of the Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Authority, the Hon'ble Chief Minister assured his full co-operation in taking up all the required precautionary measures to mitigate the impact of disasters. He declared that the first task of the Government was protection of the people and said, "All of us together must give priority to this task".

Earlier, the Chief Secretary to Government Dr. V. Irai Anbu I.A.S., gave the welcome address. Thiru. Phanindra Reddy I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary, Commissioner of Revenue Administration explained about disaster management.

News In Picture

Under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin**, a meeting was held at Tamil Nadu House in New Delhi on 18.06.2021. At the meeting, a review was held to construct new buildings at the old Tamil Nadu House in Chanakyapuri in New Delhi. Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources, Thiru. Durai Murugan, Thiru. T.R.Baalu, MP and High Government officials participated.

Speedy action apace under 'Chief Minister in Your Constituency' scheme; 1,21,720 petitions dealt with

The Department of 'Chief Minister in Your Constituency' has taken action on 1,21,720 petitions so far, and redressed grievances in 50,643 petitions. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin distributed on 29.06.2021, the welfare assistance to the petitioners concerned.

Speedy action is being taken on the petitions received during the Hon'ble Chief Minister's election campaign. The Hon'ble Chief Minister

handed over to some beneficiaries, selected from the petitions that were accepted after scrutiny, orders for welfare assistance to 549 persons on 18.05.2021, 3,213 persons on 03.06.2021 and to 1,100 persons on 11.06.2021.

Till now, action has been taken on 1,21,720 petitions, demands made in 50,643 petitions have been acceded to. Of these 50,643 petitions, 18,744 pertain to individual grievances like issuance of patta, pensions given under the Social Security Scheme and other welfare schemes, coming under the Revenue Department. Funds given to help 7,311 persons to construct house and 5,250 work orders worth Rs.300 crore for basic infrastructure also come under this category. One thousand seven hundred and sixty-seven petitions, seeking basic facilities in urban areas have been accepted by many Municipalities; 2,504 petitions connected with co-operation and civil supplies Department and for new family cards have been accepted; 1,334 demands connected with the Tamil Nadu Generation and Electricity Distribution Corporation have been redressed; 933 petitions connected with the Social Welfare Department have been accepted. Besides, solutions have been found for 12,800 petitions connected with other Departments.

Of the remaining petitions, 36,702 are not in a position to be dealt with now as they either don't carry the petitioner's address or there is inability to contact the petitioner through phone or due to lack of clarity in the demands made. However, steps will be taken to carry out the demands after getting in touch with the petitioners. Efforts to find alternative solutions have been undertaken in respect of 35,005 petitions as the demands in them cannot be carried out under the present Government rules.

Apart from this, 66,264 petitions seeking employment opportunities have been sent to the Department of Employment and Training. Of these petitions, the District employment officials concerned have got in touch with 47,611 petitioners and got additional details. On the basis of this information, 271 persons have opted for receiving unemployment assistance; 5,082 petitioners who sought Government/ private sector jobs have been enrolled in online classes for competitive examinations, through the District employment and career guidance centre and the classes are on.

Of the petitions seeking job opportunity in private sector, details of the petitioner in respect of 2,545 petitions have been uploaded in the website www.tnprivatejobs.gov.in. An online job mela was conducted for them on 21.06.2021; one hundred and eighty-four persons were selected immediately for jobs in the private sector.

On 29.06.2021, the Hon'ble Chief Minister called 11 of the 50,643 petitioners whose grievances have been fully resolved and handed over the appropriate orders to them.

Hon'ble Chief Minister inspects distribution of Corona cash relief, hampers with 14 items

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin inspected the distribution of the second instalment of Corona cash relief, Rs.2,000 and 14 types of essential grocery items to family rice card holders in 6 fair price shops located at Alwarpet and Nandanam and four at Lloyds colony, Chennai on 16.06.2021 and reviewed the implementation.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister instructed the fair price shop employees to distribute the articles to people without delay and put in their best work. He made enquiries and learnt from the general public about the availability of ration articles in fair price shops. Later, he distributed the second instalment of Corona cash relief of Rs.2,000 and hampers with 14 types of essential grocery articles.

Thiru. Udhayanidhi Stalin, MLA was present at the event.

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin** gave his explanation for using the term ‘Union Government’ in his reply to the debate on the resolution moved to thank the Hon’ble Governor for his address in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly at Kalaivanar Arangam, on 23.06.2021.

Tamilarasu

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Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin,** opened the Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and New-born Care (CEmONC) Services Centre at the Tiruvarur Medical College Hospital campus and inspected the new facility on 07.07.2021.

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